



**POSTER SLAM!**  
*The Gateway brutalizes SU campaign posters, p. 11*

# THE GATEWAY



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### Catching up with Carlton

The Gateway talks with former *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* star Alfonso Ribeiro about life after the sitcom and connection to his famous character.

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### A dizzy return

After taking a harsh punch to the head, captain Eric Hunter will lead the Ice Bears into the playoffs on Friday.

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### Back to the future

Gateway staffers engage in one of life's ubiquitous questions: should we look forward to a future full of robots, or yearn for the barn-raising of yore.

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## Student engagement top priority at forum

AARON YEO  
News Staff

Increasing the range of eating establishments on campus, improving communication, and expanding involvement were all items up for debate last night as the Students' Union executive election candidates gathered in Lister for the

residence forum. Each of the candidates



were given five minutes to state their platform ideas and explain their policies. Prior to the event, the elections office accepted questions from students via e-mail, which were then relayed to the candidates during the forum. For the two contested races present, a cross-examination also took place, where candidates were able to pose their own questions to their opponents before the floor was opened up to the audience.

Instead of breaking out into song like his opponent Dr. Horrible, presidential candidate Rory Tighe described his proposals, which include some substantial changes to Dewey's, as the current lease for the building is due to expire this summer. He also mentioned some changes to student services in SUB. By moving student services around in the building, Tighe said he hopes to create more student space next year, but he recognizes that "SUB is not the only hub on campus."

Colten Yamagishi, one of two candidates for VP (Student Life), talked about his plans for handling future changes in residence life, in response to the establishment of special floors and meal plan changes.

"Residence services needs to cut the bullshit," he said. "The student voice needs to be heard."

The other VP (Student Life) candidate, David McBean, said he would

draw upon his Orientation experience to improve the volunteer base of the SU, and make their services available to student groups. Also on his agenda were the growth of SU events and meeting students face-to-face to solve personal issues.

VP (External) candidate Farid Iskandar pointed out the lack of provincial election polling stations available on campus, and hopes to lobby the government to allow students in residence to vote more easily. He was also enthusiastic about communication, especially with social media and the SUTV service.

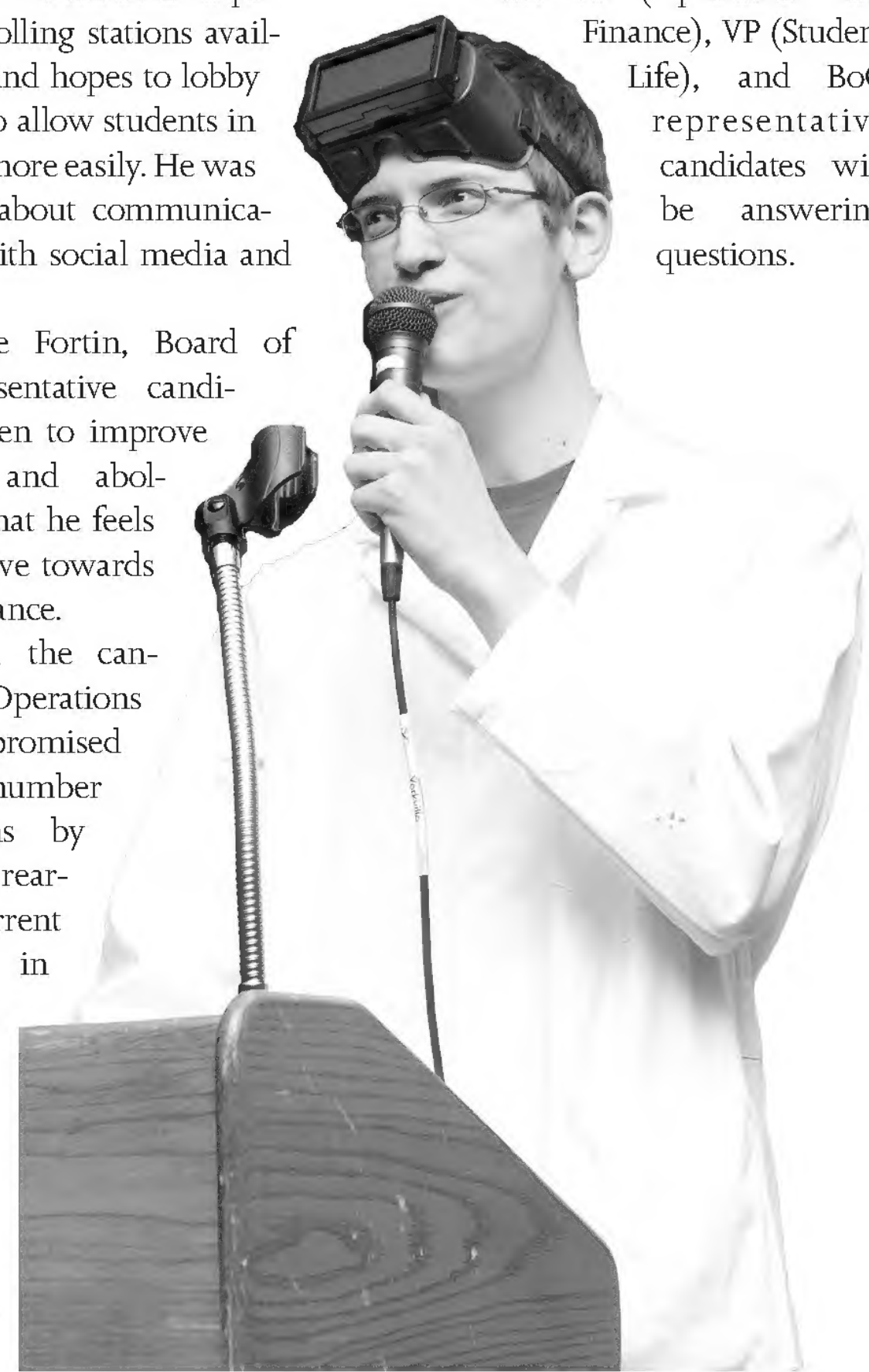
Raphael Lepage Fortin, Board of Governors representative candidate, was also keen to improve communication and abolish the distance that he feels many students have towards university governance.

Andy Cheema, the candidate for VP (Operations and Finance), promised to increase the number of food options by "condensing and rearranging" the current establishments in SUB. Cheema also plans to increase the range of locations that will accept meal cards as payment.

Vice President (Academic)

candidate Emerson Csorba voiced his support for improving the mental health of students, as well as what he called "graduate attributes." Csorba also articulated his goals for undergraduate research.

The next forum will take place today on SUBStage at 12:30 p.m., where the VP (Operations and Finance), VP (Student Life), and BoG representative candidates will be answering questions.



## Candidate rejected from Lister presidential elections

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

One Lister Centre resident is upset after being blocked from the Lister Hall Students' Association election, calling the involvement of Residence Services in the election process "a conflict of interest."

Resident Saadiq Sumar will not be allowed to run for president, after having his candidacy revoked by the current LHSA President Dustin Edwards and Residence Co-ordinator for Kelsey and Residence Services representative Leslie Smith.

"After much deliberation based both on your interview and your employment history with the LHSA, both myself and [Smith] have decided it would not be in the best interest of the

organization to allow you to continue into presidential election week," read email correspondence sent to Sumar from Edwards.

To run for president of the LHSA, a resident must first sit through an interview with the current LHSA President and a representative from Residence Services, a branch of the U of A administration that deals with residence affairs.

Sumar was aggravated that Residence Services had a say in whether or not he could run, comparing the process with the Students' Union elections.

The requirement for Students' Union elections is a minimum 50 signatures from other students on a nomination package, and a \$50 deposit.

"It's like if the Board of Governors would have to approve whoever is

running for BoG representative," Sumar said. "It just goes to show that Residence Services has their finger in every pie. It seems like a conflict of interest that a student advocate is chosen by the people he might be basically in conflict with. The election of the president should be more of an internal matter than a matter that involves Residence Services."

Sumar speculated that the "employment history" Edwards referred to in his email was most likely his previous job as Vice President of Henday, a joint employee of the LHSA and Residence Services. While VP of Henday, a floor co-ordinator was fired for throwing a pumpkin out of a window. For his handling of the incident, Residence Services also fired Sumar.

After Sumar's candidacy was

declined, a group of Lister residents circulated a petition calling for his reinstatement in the election. A petition contesting the decision was circulated before Reading Week, but was hampered by the timing of the decision — Sumar only learned of his rejection around 8 p.m. on the Thursday before Reading Week.

The group claims they have 250 signatures on the petition, which was forwarded to the Lister General Appeals Board. The board decided against granting Sumar a hearing for his appeal.

Both SU Vice President (Student Life) candidates in the current election indicated that they had a problem with Sumar being blocked, and if elected, would try to work towards changes.

PLEASE SEE LISTER • PAGE 6



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colophon

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Skybox by Dan McKechnie

“

You would be wildly misguided to indicate that, because we particularly reiterate a certain law here, we don't follow any other laws and we're allowed to go murder people.”

NATALIE COX  
ALES Councillor

—on not taking things to their extreme conclusions

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Simon Yackulic

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, where free food and entertaining debate will be provided for all attendees.

This meeting, attendees satisfied their stomachs with cookies and self-prepared sandwiches layered with cheese, deli meat and extra-large tomatoes. So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.

QUESTION PERIOD

Vice President (External) Aden Murphy received a number of questions about the recently released provincial budget and his reaction to the document. Murphy, who said that he could live with the budget, if only "uneasily," explained that it could have been worse. While the base operating grant didn't increase, at least it wasn't cut. Murphy explained that he is still concerned about financial aid, along with the affordability and accessibility of advanced education in the province.

Murphy was asked a related ques-

tion about what the SU and provincial lobby organizations are going to do about "the negatives" in the budget. Murphy reiterated his concern for some of the changes to the province's financial aid system, highlighting the fact that about 900 students will be affected by the change to the remission program, where students who don't complete their degrees won't be eligible for remissions of their student loans. President Nick Dehod added that, as the university's base operating funding won't see an increase, institutions might be looking at increasing mandatory non-instructional fees. Dehod noted that the SU is still working to get provincial regulations in place on these fees.

Dehod was asked about what steps he plans to take if the response to the fall reading week plebiscite isn't overwhelmingly positive. Dehod said the results of the plebiscite won't be the only metric moving forward, but what comments he gets from students and the university community will also play a role. Regardless of what happens, Dehod clarified that he would like to see the creation of a task force, using this plebiscite as a data point to see what might work or not work for the institution. He emphasized that this will be a multi-year discussion and it will be up to next year's executive to decide what they want to do with the results.

MARCH IN SOLIDARITY

A number of University of Alberta students were in attendance at a demonstration held in Churchill Square on February 26, to show support against the violence and brutalities that are taking place in Libya.

Those who attended braved the cold as they listened to multiple speeches, cheered, and marched around the square.

"I'm sure everyone has been watching on the news how terrible the conditions are, so living here, the least we can do is raise our voice and show our support," said Sara Mostafa, a U of A graduate student. "I'm Egyptian, I know how it feels. It's a real tough time to see your country go through this."

Fayyad Sabha, another U of A graduate student, spoke passionately to the group at Churchill on the conditions in Libya, and asked people to spread awareness on the attacks that the Libyan people are enduring for wanting basic democratic rights. Sabha lead the crowd in shouting, "Libya, Libya, we will never let you die."

Sabha feels it's crucial for students to be aware of what's happening and to spread that awareness to those around them.

Violence broke out in Libya during a civilian demonstration which called for the overthrow of the country's leader Moammar Gadhafi, who has held authority in Libya for 42 years.

More than 100 Canadian citizens are still stranded in Libya, and it has become the Canadian government's top priority to evacuate them. The civilian death toll in Libya has exceeded 300.

—Zaineb Hussein, News Writer



DAN MCKECHNIE

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Simon Yackulic and Matt Hirji



Mark Otway  
ALES IV



Thoman Brown  
Science II



Thomas Mamos  
Arts II



Roger Rouault  
Arts IV

As you may be aware, Godzilla is running for Vice President (External) of the Students' Union. What other fictional characters would you like to run in an SU election?

Batman, because he's awesome.

Tyrone Biggums from the Chappelle Show — the crack addict.

Mothra and the two Asian girls in the original Godzilla.

King Kong, because he'd kick the shit out of Godzilla.





# Oilsands visionaries discuss citizen engagement, energy tax

SCOTT FENWICK  
News Staff

A group of University of Alberta students have started a lecture series that invites people involved in shaping Alberta's oilsands debate to share their views on the resource's future.

Entitled "Oilsands Visionaries," the three-part series will start each night with a keynote lecture, followed by panelists responding to the speech. Satya Das, author of the book *Green Oil*, presented the series' first keynote on February 24. The next presentation will be March 3 and features Andrew Leach, an Alberta School of Business professor, along with Greenpeace's Mike Hudema and two other panelists.

"We get a lot of speakers out telling us details about specific issues within the oilsands, but we don't hear much discussion on where do we go next on this," said Alastair Fraser, a series organizer, on how the series came about.

The series was developed through the university's Oilsands Student Delegation — which organizes annual oilsands tours for U of A students — along with the Energy Club and the Commerce Energy and Environment Group. Invited panelists include government officials, environmentalists, and First Nations leaders.

"There's a lot of debate on [whether] the status-quo is good enough. We wanted to set-up an event where we could have some people make some proposals for what's next," Fraser said.

In his keynote address last week, Das called on Albertans to become more engaged in the debate on how to develop the oilsands.

"It's too big for any one political party to get it right. It's too big for any one interest group to get it right," he stated. "This is something that cries out for citizen engagement. Unless us citizens step-up, get engaged, start thinking and taking ownership of these issues, we are going to let others do it for us badly."

Calling Alberta a "democratic petro-state," Das proposed that the province use money generated from the oilsands to fund the development of renewable energy, enabling it to become a "clean energy superpower."

"If we are the owners and the stewards of the world's largest hydrocarbon deposit, we have to start acting like owners," he said, suggesting that Alberta charge a tax on every resource obtained from the environment. The tax would reflect industry's impacts, as well as reflect the fact that Alberta is more stable and democratic than most other oil producers.

"It becomes a way of having a dedicated fund that'll pay for a clean energy economy. It'll accelerate the development of low carbon industries, and it will increase investment in renewables and alternatives."

During the discussion period, panelist Brent Stuart, a representative of Suncor Energy, said that although his company doesn't necessarily agree with Das' full proposal, there is general support for such a tax.

"We do agree with the idea of a dedicated and directed funding, especially in the carbon world. And we stand for carbon levy of sorts," he said. "Our CEO [...] has long-time said, 'let's have a carbon levy, let's make it meaningful, let's apply it across the economy and across the operations.'"

At the same time, most other panelists wanted the Alberta government to better regulate and manage the oilsands, citing lack of existing public confidence.

"I think I am a pessimist with the way politics is heading in Alberta. I see it's getting more and more fractured right now," said *Edmonton Journal* columnist Graham Thompson, another panelist. "I'm hoping that what we're seeing right now in Alberta [...] will get people engaged politically because there's a lot at stake here."

# New knowledge of how viruses survive may help scientists combat infection

RACHEL SINGER  
News Writer

Researchers at the University of Alberta have discovered a pathway some RNA viruses may utilize to prolong their survival inside human cells, which may allow scientists to defend against them in the future.

Tom Hobman, a cell biologist with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, along with his former doctoral student Carolina Ilkow and biochemistry professor Ing Swie Goping, found that the Rubella virus, an RNA virus that causes German measles, prevented cells from undergoing programmed cell death, allowing the virus time to replicate and produce more virus particles.

"If you look through the literature, 99.99 per cent of the studies describe how these RNA viruses kill cells and that is usually the inevitable consequence of a viral infection, is that a cell will die at some point, but the key here is timing," Hobman said.

The goal of a virus is to get into a

susceptible cell, replicate, and get out. Normally, a human cell can detect if something wrong is going on inside and deliberately kill itself through a mechanism called apoptosis. When a virus enters a cell, the cell can detect it has been infected and try to kill itself before the virus replicates and causes infection.

"When cells die it is not usually an accident — it is actually an antiviral defence. So, when you think about it, a virus needs a living cell in which to divide. So if the cell dies before the virus has a chance to replicate, the virus basically loses," Hobman explained.

The researchers found that Rubella virus was able to prevent apoptosis in cells, giving it time to replicate inside. The researchers then identified a protein, called a capsid protein, that was preventing the cells from undergoing apoptosis.

"Basically what [it] does is it goes to the mitochondria, the cell's major energy producer, and puts holes in the mitochondria which allows

cytochrome C, a small protein, to be released into the cell [...] By keeping the cytochrome C in the mitochondria, the cell did not undergo apoptosis," Hobman said.

Future plans for Hobman's lab is to apply the findings to other RNA viruses that are similar to Rubella virus, which is a slow-replicating virus. They have started to look at West Nile virus and Dengue virus to see if they also block apoptosis in cells, allowing them to survive long enough to replicate and cause infection.

"If we can find out how these viruses keep cells alive, then I think this opens up a whole new way to defend against viral infections. Because if you can basically help the innate immune system do what it is supposed to do in the first place, you can ideally prevent the virus from replicating and a viral infection from taking hold in the first place," Hobman said.

Their paper was published February in the journal *Public Library of Science Pathogens*.

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## UofA **otes** 2011

The Gateway presents a video discussion with this year's SU executive candidates.



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ELECTION COVERAGE

### THE GATEWAY

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The Gateway is accepting applications for the following **Line Editor Positions** for the 2011/2012 publishing year.

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Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Opinion Editor  
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A&E Editor  
Photo Editor  
Online Editor

The term runs from 1 May, 2011 to 30 April, 2012.

The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August 2011 to the end of April 2012. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three summer issues for an honorarium of \$115/issue.

##### HALF TIME POSITIONS

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In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and News editors will receive \$1816.07 per month, Design & Production and Staff Reporter editors will receive \$726.69 per month per month, and all other line editors receiving \$1453.37 per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee.



Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to Gateway Business Manager: **Ashleigh Brown** (780) 492-6669 biz@gateway.ualberta.ca Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Application deadline | 5 pm • March 10th, 2011

\* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.  
\*\* Complete job description (subject to change) is available at [www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj](http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj)

# Cheema pushes for more food options, SUB renovations

*The Vice President (Operations and Finance) is responsible for managing the SU's \$10 million budget. The VP (OpsFi) also oversees departmental operations and works closely with the general manager and the president in managing the daily operations of the SU.*

Compiled by Andrew Jeffrey

## 1 Why are you running for the position of Vice President (Operations and Finance)?

**Andy Cheema:** I'm in my fourth year and after this semester I'll have finished all my degree requirements, so I could be graduating, but I'm not. Why not? Essentially, I've spent the last couple years being quite involved with student governance, with student groups, and with the Students' Union. I've spent a lot of time building up experience and building up an understanding of the SU, and in thinking about the issues that I talk about in my platform. So I've come up with ideas that I really believe in. What I want to do is to take my experience and to give a shot at making what I can out of my ideas before I pack up my bags and leave the U of A.

## 2 What do you want to achieve as VP (Operations and Finance)?

**Cheema:** I'll answer that by telling you my platform. My platform has three points: Number one, redesign the lower level of SUB; number two, enhance food and beverage options; and number three, strengthen business performance. I want to initiate renovations on the lower level to increase student studying and relaxation space, to increase the number of student group offices, and to showcase the student services that we offer. Food and beverage options by the SU have an ongoing need for improvement, so I want to take a good hard look at issues such as quality of food, variety, quality of service. Additionally, students have indicated to us in survey results that they want to see more food options, so I want to take a look at how we can address this demand as well.

**"Students have clearly demonstrated that they want more food options and I think that we do have an opportunity to think about answering that call."**

**ANDY CHEEMA**

CANDIDATE, VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

As for strengthening business performance, we have a number of business operations which aren't operating at what I believe to be their full potential, which is a problem because our businesses are a major form of funding for our services. I think that we can strengthen our business performance by rethinking what we sell and whether it's always what students want to buy, and in doing so, I think that we can better directly meet students needs as well as provide more value for the SU.

## 3 What challenges do you foresee in the upcoming year regarding the SU's operations and finances?

**Cheema:** The SU's budget stays relatively constant from year to year with only a small number of important



DAN MCKECHNIE

**CHECK THE BOOKS** Cheema may be in charge of the SU's \$10 million budget.

changes on an annual basis. Over the last couple years, the recession has had an impact on the SU's finances. We've seen things like a negative effect on our investments, decline in some of our business operations, as well as increased use of things like the Access Fund and a number of our services. But overall, I think these trends are leveling out as we exit the recession. I don't think these will pose challenges for the upcoming year.

I think that one particular challenge that we'll have to face head on is what to do with Dewey's. Dewey's is currently in a transitional state. A couple years [ago] we came close to losing our space in the building. We were able to resolve that by finding a short-term solution that allows us to keep the space until August 2012.

So in the upcoming year it will be imperative to find a more permanent solution for the space, to secure our space in the building, and this is important in order for us to continue to offer this space and service to students. Once we have this space secured we can justify any sort of major projects or changes to improve Dewey's.

Endowment has been transferred to the Student Involvement Endowment Fund. Essentially what this does is it creates a \$2.3 million pool of funds from which new scholarship programs can be drawn from. So it will be important to work with the Student Financial Aid Information Centre, as well as the Grant Allocation Committee next year to ensure that these monies are used appropriately in the implementation of new scholarship programs.

Number two, the Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre design is well underway and it will be important for the incoming executive to be involved in negotiations regarding the PAW Centre to ensure that students' interests are represented in decisions made around the building.

And number three, I just want to talk a little bit about sustainability. Over the last year, the SU has been undertaking a sustainability audit. So over the next week I believe, recommendations will be published from the sustainability audit and I'm interested in seeing what they are and whether there's anything that we can talk about implementing in the upcoming year.

In addition to things that are being carried over from last year, there are a number of things that I want to do that are entirely new. I think that the renovations that I'm talking about in the lower level, stand out as a big new project that hasn't been addressed in-depth in the last two years. So I'm excited to see what comes of that. Something new that I want to look into as well is addressing the demand for more food options. Students have clearly demonstrated that they want more food options and I think that we do have an opportunity to think about answering that call.

## 5 The VP (OpsFi) deals with a \$10 million budget, if you were to embezzle that money, how would you spend it?

**Cheema:** Well, assuming the question makes sense and that it would actually be possible to take \$10 million at once, I think we could dig a big hole in the middle of Quad, turn it into an artificial lake and then buy a big, fancy yacht and put that in the artificial lake in Quad and just have a year-long party going on all the time. I think that would be pretty sweet and that students would enjoy that.

## 4 The current VP (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman has been in the position for the last two years. Is there anything you would do differently than the current VP?

**Cheema:** I'd like to start by saying that I think Vice President Fentiman has done a great job in his two years as the VP (OpsFi) of the SU. I think that in his time he's accomplished a lot, he's done things which are steps in the right direction, he's completed projects that he set out to complete. As well, he's left a number of carry-over projects that he's done the groundwork for, but that will have to be overseen in future years. So I'll talk a bit about these carry-over projects.

Number one, there's been some financial restructuring of scholarship programs, namely the Access Fund



# Councillor Yamagishi battles McBean in Student Life race

**The Vice President (Student Life) is responsible for university-related non-academic issues including: campus programming, university non-academic advocacy, the U-Pass, Health & Dental Plan, and SU Student Services.**

Compiled by Andrew Jeffrey

**1** What new ideas do you have in mind to get more students involved in campus activities, especially those who are apathetic to most current SU activities?

**David McBean:** I would like to increase collaboration between the SU and faculties, faculty associations, and student groups to have events that are for all types of students, even the students who just come to school and go home. I think working with these groups will really help have unique events and have events for all types. For example, I would want to work with the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation to have a homecoming. Or work with the VP (Academic) and other faculties to have [an academic conference] with keynote speeches and nobel laureates [...] I'd like to promote and support and streamline this new website called The Bear's Den where students can type in their interests and in return will be a page of all the student groups on campus that suit those interests.

**Colten Yamagishi:** I think engagement is a problem on our campus due to the high number of commuter students that come to school and leave as soon as they're done class [...] My platform point [on] diversifying events is really important [...] I'd like to introduce new events like a campus musical, that appeals to a whole new crowd of students. Also, having easily-accessible events like movie nights in the Myer Horowitz Theatre, Dewey's, or RATT are very accessible events that students can attend easily and for a low cost [...] The way I like to look at it is that involvement is like a big swimming pool full of cold water. At first you don't want to jump in, but once you've dived into student events, it's so fun that you won't want to get out.

**2** What do you think of the decision to implement alcohol-free and quiet floors in Lister? Do you have plans for any other proposed changes to improve residence life for students?

**McBean:** Ultimately, and I think everybody can agree, more options for students is always better. The decisions for Lister that were recently made were for the diverse community of students who live there. However, there are improvements that need to be made to increase the communication to students, as this recent process was disrupted and not a fair shake for floor co-ordinators as well as other Lister students. As VP (Student Life), I will have discussions with residence services and the Lister Hall Students' Association to improve the process and ensure that the student's voice is heard. I would also listen to the response of students for the new restorative justice process. It is crucial that the voice of students is heard and I'm very keen to work with students on how this new justice process will follow through.

**Yamagishi:** As the newspaper editor in Lister Centre and the past floor co-ordinator for the LHSA, I've done a lot



DAN MCKECHNIE

**LIVIN' THE LIFE** McBean (top) and Yamagishi are both hoping to become VPSL.

of research regarding this issue. My involvement and passion for this issue has even taken a bit of time out of my preparation for this campaign [...] I was most upset by the way the communities were implemented so quickly and with little student consultation. The opinion of residents has been largely overlooked by Residence Services with these changes [...] This is only the first step in a number of big changes that residence services is looking to make. If I'm elected as VP (Student Life), I want to ensure that these new communities are implemented in a healthy and responsible manner so that residents' Lister experience is not ruined.

**3** With the success of the U of A's second Break the Record dodgeball game, do you see this becoming an annual event?

**McBean:** I can definitely see this becoming an annual event. We can't let California break our record again. Break The Record dodgeball game was a huge success, and helping people feel like part of the community is crucial to the university experience. For some students, this was their first time getting involved on campus.

**Yamagishi:** Yes, I am definitely looking into continuing the Break the Record program as an annual event. The event has seen amazing growth in the past two years and I would love to make sure that this initiative gets supported so that we can re-break the record again if Irvine steps up to our challenge. If they don't, there's no reason we can't break another record with a different type of event or rebreak our own dodgeball record.

**4** What current student concern do you find to be the most pressing and most in need of review?

**McBean:** One of the most important concerns for me is students' health — their mental health and their safety on campus. The SU has many amazing services that deal with these. For example, the Peer Support Centre helps students in need of support, the Campus Food Bank helps students that are in need of a more balanced diet, and Safewalk does an outstanding job helping keep students safe at night. These services

are located in the lower level of SUB which has a very low level of traffic unless you're buying textbooks. I feel their accessibility is vital for students so I would help the process of moving the Peer Support Centre to the second floor and help the Campus Food Bank to be on the main floor [...] Secondly, the lack of distinct SU volunteers is a pressing issue. Many events by the SU are great and the programming is outstanding throughout the year, but sometimes they lack volunteers. The largest addition I would like to make to the SU is a distinct volunteer base with group interviews and contracts.

**Yamagishi:** I believe that the most important student concern is the lack of interdependence between faculties, cultural groups, and student organizations. Engineers hang out with engineers and arts students hang out with arts students, athletes hang out with athletes, and Lister kids hang out in packs. Many students who come to university with high school friends find it difficult to branch out and meet a new, diverse group of people. I believe our campus needs to develop a mindset that university is a place to grow and step outside of our comfort zones, a place to develop ourselves and those around us [...] This is a goal that I am committed to — to increase the accessibility to a healthy and exciting undergraduate experience.

**5** In the spirit of our dodgeball game, if you could hold any world record what would it be?

**McBean:** As the inventor of the Wildcat donair and the Tombstone donair, I would want a world record of most donairs eaten in a semester — which I might actually hold.

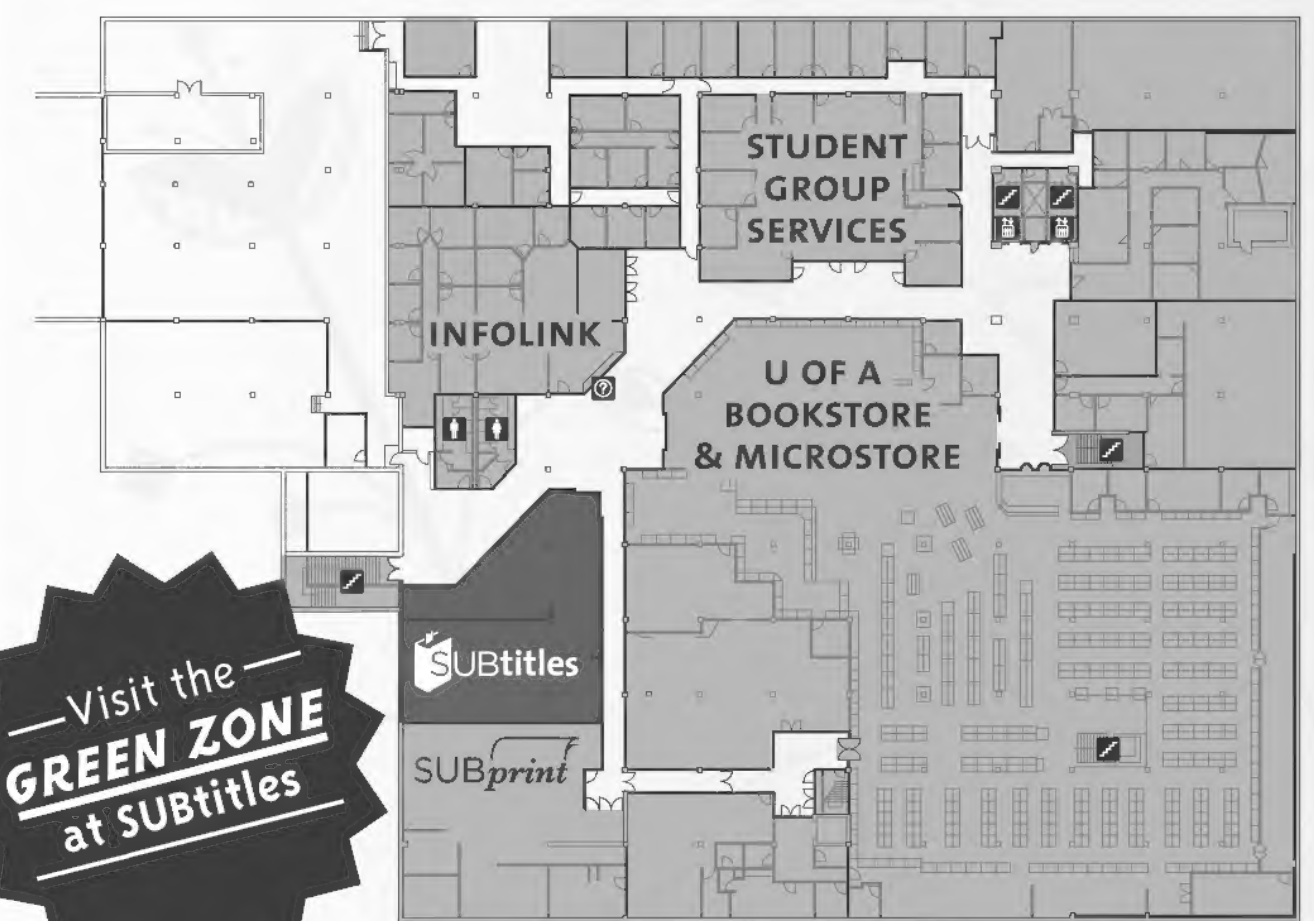
**Yamagishi:** I'd be really interested in running a campus-wide head shave to raise the most money for a head shave in history. Last year, the SU President Nick Dehod and the Provost Carl Amrhein had a goal of raising \$33,000 for shaving their heads. I think it would be an amazing campus initiative to get everyone to work together and develop a huge sum of funds to not only break a record, but to increase our role as responsible for both the campus and greater community.

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# Csorba single candidate for VPA

*The Vice President (Academic) represents and advocates for student interests within the university community and beyond. This includes lobbying the university administration and faculty in regards to academic issues affecting students. The VP (Academic) is also responsible for encouraging and facilitating involvement in student government via Faculty Associations, General Faculties Council, and other miscellaneous university committees.*

Compiled by Justin Bell

## 1 How do you think the U of A can strike a balance between research and teaching?

**Emerson Csorba:** This is a big issue that we talk about all the time, especially in the VPA portfolio. I think something we need to do is ensure the research informs the teaching, especially in the third- and fourth-year courses where the courses are smaller and there's more interaction between the students and professors.

## 2 What do you see as the biggest priority for the VPA portfolio this year?

**Csorba:** The biggest priority I have is undergraduate research. To expand on that, I plan on implementing the SU's first undergraduate research symposium in fall 2011. That would have a few goals. First, it would be to increase the visibility of research on campus so that we have more students doing research by the end. Also, to celebrate the researchers we have on campus.

## 3 The university came out with their new five-year Academic Plan this year. What are your thoughts on the plan?

**Csorba:** I think that they did a good job of the



AARON YEO

**THE BEST LAID PLANS** Csorba is happy with the SU's input in the university's new Academic Plan.

consultation process, especially with coming to the SU and integrating the thoughts of the SU. I also like that they prioritized undergraduate research, as well as the graduate attributes. They talk about attributes rather than skills, which is important terminology-wise.

Attributes are more general characteristics. What the literature says is that the future is unknown and if you have those attributes, such as integrity, or honesty, or ethical behaviour, you'll be able to succeed regardless of the fact that you don't know what the future holds. Skills are more specific and pertain to each faculty.

## 4 A number of faculty associations are trying to make a comeback this year. How do you plan on working with faculty associations?

**Csorba:** The key is to start out strong and create good relationships with the new executives of each faculty associations because their elections occur at the same time as our elections. For a few faculties, I would be interested in implementing a Faculty Association Membership Fee or working on that process with them, especially with an [association] like the Interdepartmental Science Students' Society which requires more money based on the number of activities they are doing.

## 5 If you could add a course in anything at the U of A, what would it be?

**Csorba:** I think I would add a course on heckling. I think that maybe it would get more students out to varsity games, which is something now that's lacking at the university.

# Lister elections need review: SL candidates

LISTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This isn't very democratic. I feel that we're university students and Lister residents can make decisions on elections — they're mature and they shouldn't be told what to do," said candidate David McBean. "I think that this needs to be changed, and I would like to work with the LHSA to review their constitution."

Colten Yamagishi, the other VPSL candidate and a Lister resident, assisted with the petition. He agreed with McBean's sentiments.

"I think it's very important that the VPSL will step up to make sure the voice of residents is being used heavily and considered heavily in consultation," Yamagishi said. "I don't see why [Sumar] shouldn't have been allowed to compete in the election for the LHSA president."

Smith, the Residence Services representative who sat in on Sumar's interview, was unable to speak with *The Gateway* as of press time. However, Ryan Cameron, Residence Co-ordinator for Henday, explained why Residence Services sits in on the interviews.

"The truth of the matter is we work closely with the LHSA [...] so wherever we can have an opinion, we're happy to have a say," Cameron said. "The process by which candidates are first approved is also in the LHSA constitution. And I wouldn't say, as far as I'm aware, that the decision to disqualify [Sumar] was entirely Residence Services."

Edwards declined to speak to *The Gateway* on the matter and explained in an email that he wouldn't elaborate on his decision.

"I don't feel it is appropriate of me to discuss the reasonings behind [Sumar] not being allowed to continue into presidential elections," Edwards explained in the email. "What I will say is that our decision was made in accordance with the guidelines set out in the LHSA constitution."



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## Relevance of SU waning

ELECTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ARE now underway, with posters and banners plastering every free surface on campus. But what the energy of this year's campaign covers up is a lack of candidates for undergraduate voters and, ultimately, a lack of choice.

Only one Students' Union race, the Vice President (Student Life) portfolio, is contested. That leaves five positions with only a single real candidate, not including the two joke candidates, who can't actually win.

It would be easy to point the blame at the individual candidates, asking them what they did to clear the field for their own ascendancy. Conversely, the elections office would be another quick target. A lack of information about running in the election could be part of the problem. But those reasons are too simplistic to explain why only seven candidates stepped forward for six positions. Instead, the real blame should rest with the Students' Union and how politics have begun to operate at the University of Alberta.

As the university grows, it's becoming harder and harder for the SU to bring students together. The central role it used to play on campus has given way to numerous smaller organizations students become involved with, from faculty associations to clubs.

A disconnect between what students on campus want and what our political officials at the SU are offering has begun to emerge. Tuition, textbook prices, and the nebulous idea of "student experience" that were buzzwords as recently as 10 years ago no longer resonate with voters. A rally last year to protest the CoSSS fee brought out less than 300 people. More students cram themselves into a lecture theatre in CCIS for Psych classes than cared to walk across High Level bridge. Instead, the SU should be looking to engage students and support them with what they want.

Major programming put on by the SU has been limited in recent years to AntiFreeze and Week of Welcome. For those of us who are already here, AntiFreeze is really the only one of interest. Smaller events, such as the organization's dinner and a movie, are limited and poorly advertised. And the SU's bars on campus don't offer much, leaving little in the way of common meeting space on campus.

The political spectacle that is Students' Council has also become a turnoff for many students. Polite discussion and consensus building gives way to grandstanding and point scoring in these meetings. Students don't respond to it, and don't want to be a part of it.

Making the SU more relevant should be a long-term goal of every candidate this year. While it's impossible to engage with every student and make them feel like part of the whole, the SU's performance is inexcusably poor. It has to start with better communication with students, which the SU has admittedly started. A new website and student surveys will give the organization an emerging image of what students want.

But it shouldn't end there. Politicians, both the executives and student councillors, should be out talking to students on a daily basis, wandering the halls to connect with their constituents in person.

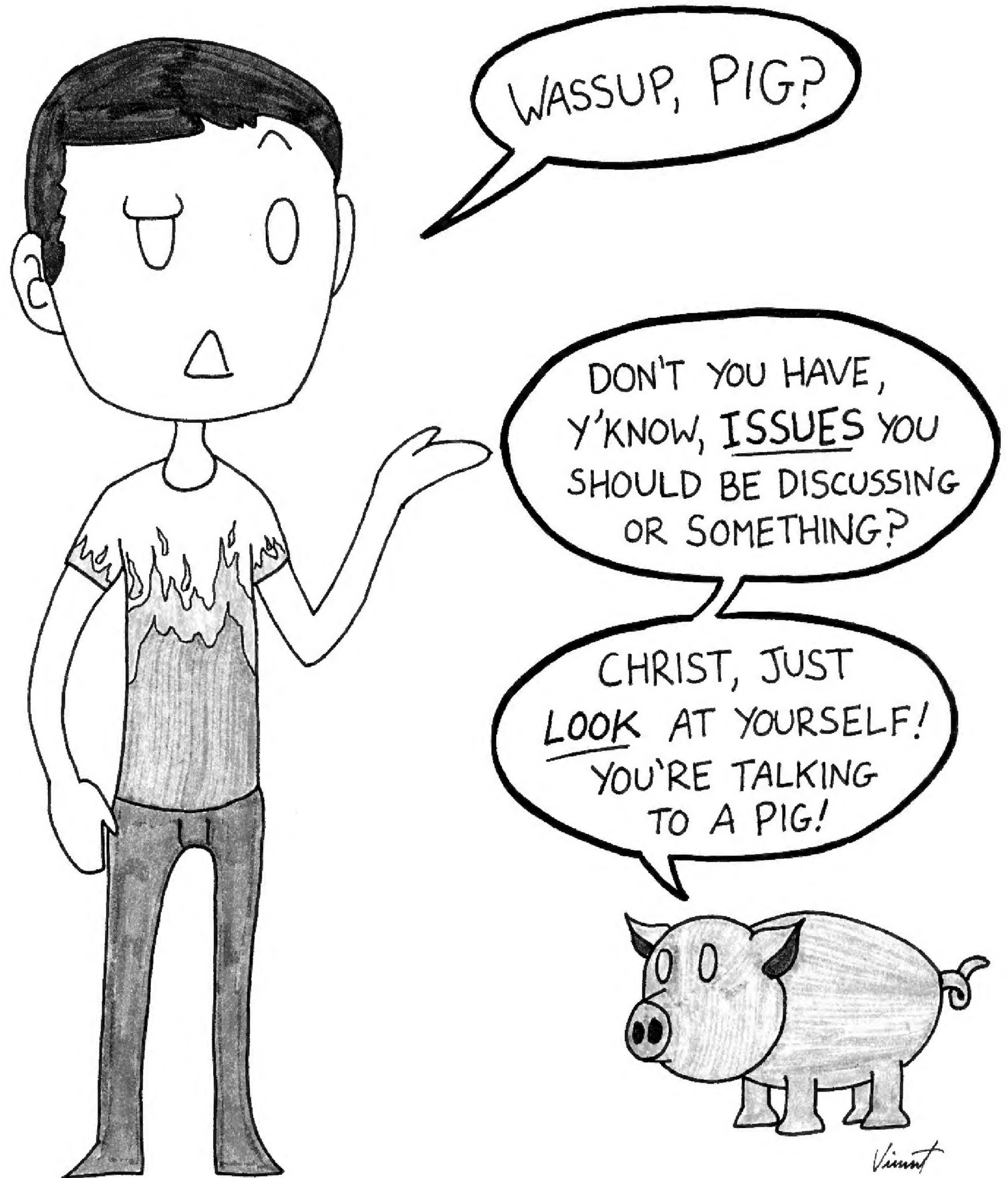
When only six people show up to run for a \$32,000-a-year job running a multi-million dollar organization, it speaks to bigger problems. Other student organizations, from the Graduate Students' Association here on campus, to the Students' Association at MacEwan, have highly-contested elections and as many as three candidates per race. It's about time that elections become a metric of the Students' Union's success. If people are out voting and getting involved in the electoral process, then something is going right. If students are voting with their feet and finding better things to do on election day, then maybe it's time to re-examine the organization's overall direction.

JUSTIN BELL  
Managing Editor

## Election blues

So few candidates  
But who's this "NOTA" I  
Keep hearing about?

ALIX KEMP  
Is So Bored By Elections This Year



ROSS VINCENT

### from THE web

#### Offering solutions to mouse problem in Tory

RE: ("Campus facing unprecedented mouse problem," Hayley Dunning, March 1)

With an office in the Tory basement, I've been no exception to the mouse plague. If anyone is still having problems, those sonic mouse repellers have been working like a charm downstairs. The noise they emit is almost unnoticeable (certainly no worse than a fluorescent light fixture) and we've been mouse-free for about three weeks — rather, they haven't left us any presents to clean up.

"GNIMELF"  
Via Internet

#### Refusing advice to avoid sexual assault is naïve

RE: ("Society still needs to learn that women are not responsible for being sexually assaulted," Alix Kemp, March 1)

Any cop, prosecutor, or sexual assault advocate will tell you that rape is, in many cases, a crime of opportunity. Telling women to take reasonable precautions to protect themselves is not akin to blaming the victim as you seem to

be suggesting.

"Women are inundated with well-meaning advice: don't go out at night alone, don't drink too much, dress modestly, stay out of any area that might be considered dangerous." This isn't simply well-meaning advice, it's just common sense and will make you safer. To suggest otherwise simply belies the reality of the world we live in.

You seem to be more concerned with what society thinks of rape survivors rather than preventing rape in the first place.

"STEVE"  
Via Internet

#### Blaming victims of sexual assault still a problem

RE: ("Society still needs to learn that women are not responsible for being sexually assaulted," Alix Kemp, March 1)

I believe the point of this article was not to deny the realities that rape exists and that there are ways to try to protect yourself. This goes without saying for any type of crime. Hence, the existence of home security systems and the constant advice to not leave any valuables in your car to avoid breaking and entering crimes.

The issue with rape is that the outlook, as proven by the response to the journalist's sexual assault, is that blame is issued almost solely on one's stupidity about their "inherent"

vulnerability and lack of awareness of the reality of the possibility that someone will attack and take advantage of you. That this failure to completely protect one's self from this type of crime is nobody's fault but the victim's and that ultimately this failure to shield off any and all predators means that they deserved it.

Would it be socially acceptable to blame a home owner for having their home broken into, their possessions stolen, and damage done to their property? No, the same stigma does not exist. It doesn't make any logical sense blame the victim, and say they deserved it because they didn't have a security system good enough to completely annihilate the possibility of a crime.

The problem with issuing advice to women about how not to get raped, and never addressing those who perpetrate the crimes, is that blame is placed on them. This is not only detrimental to those unfortunate victims but creates a social stigma that only perpetuates the acceptability and continuation of this horrible crime.

If bystanders and the general population think that a woman's failure to protect themselves means that they deserve it, then those who think about perpetrating these crimes probably feel that way too. This does absolutely nothing to deter rapists or solve the problem, and only reflects the continued prevalence of patriarchal views of women.

"LEANNA"  
Via Internet

#### Commenter clearly ignorant of rape culture

RE: ("Society still needs to learn that women are not responsible for being sexually assaulted," Alix Kemp, March 1)

"You seem to be more concerned with what society thinks of rape survivors rather than preventing rape in the first place." Such a comment would imply that a woman should never be around crowds, concerts, graduations, etc. The implications don't end there. Women should also then never travel around alone at night. Let's jump to the safest bet by making sure we are accompanied by a male at all times. How about a woman should never flirt either? The commenter missed the entire point of your article due to his/her own need, be it conscious or unconscious, to feed the blatant, tired, old oppression of blaming/shaming the victim.

"SARAH"  
Via Internet

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# SU forums couldn't be more dull



ALIX  
KEMP

The second floor cafeteria was mostly empty — a few tables here and there were full, but even those were occupied by only a smattering of students. It was a desolate atmosphere, and the air carried the stale smells of bad food and student body odour. Many of those present were more interested in their homework or the hockey game on the TVs than the hopeful executive candidates vying for their attention, and seemed surprised by the appearance of the politicians.

And those focused on the debates — if they can be called that, considering the lack of competition in most of the races — were clearly the friends and collaborators of the candidates. Despite this being in my sixth year here at the University of Alberta, I'd never attended one of the SU's candidate forums for the executive elections before last night. The Lister forum was thus my initiation into the wonderful

world of student political debate. At the end of the experience, I can conclude that I hadn't been missing much — except the opportunity to hide my face in shame while wishing desperately that I could be anywhere on campus other than the Lister cafeteria.

Now, maybe I'm just not drinking the kool-aid, or maybe I just wasn't liquored up enough — but after sitting through nearly two hours of awkward candidates stumbling through their campaign points, I can't say I'm surprised by the lack of interest in the electoral process. To be honest, some of the candidates didn't seem all that interested, either. Raphael Lepage Fortin, or "Raph" as he apparently prefers to be called, couldn't be bothered to stay for the entirety of the forum.

The most interesting part of the forum was probably when presidential candidate Rory Tighe asked his joke candidate competitor, Dr. Horrible, what the most horrible thing about the University of Alberta was.

"You," Dr. Horrible dead-panned. Tighe, on the other hand, struggled to come up with an answer when asked about his arch-nemesis, eventually settling half-heartedly on fees.

Which isn't to say that Dr. Horrible is a great joke candidate — in fact, if

you wanted to make an obnoxious pun, you could even say he's horrible. While his platforms — abolishing the VP positions in order to sit on a throne and rule the university with an iron fist — are at least somewhat amusing, his lack of singing skill could actually be considered a weapon of mass destruction. In any case, it had me wishing I had a pair of pencils I could jam in my ears to stop the agony.

Colten Yamagishi and David McBean, the two candidates for Vice President (Student Life), the only contested race, were so busy agreeing with each other that it was difficult to tell which platform was which. It seemed that it wasn't really all that contested after all, as they congratulated each other on asking good questions or raising relevant points. The collegial, encouraging atmosphere is great and all, but it makes the two candidates look remarkable similar.

If anything, after attending the Lister candidate forum, I have actually lost interest in voting. The Students' Union might want to consider a new approach to candidate forums — perhaps the dance-off that some mild-mannered hecklers suggested might be a better tactic. Either that, or punch spiked with LSD.

## THREELINESFREE

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Notice to all the girls looking for a nice guy ... if your hot, please go find my brother. k thanks

Your laptop has a headphone jack, please use it ... you a-hole.

Does anyone else find it amusing that all the SU Elections' candidates put up extravagant posters and organize publicity stunts, and then we expect them to spend our money wisely? (e.g. "Let's hang a shitload of expensive flatscreen monitors from the ceiling in SUB! That will improve the student experience!")

Has no one noticed the awesome tables in 1st floor Rutherford North? And fuck you girl beside me complaining that she hasn't gotten an A+ yet. C's get degrees BIIIIITCH. wishing my stomach didn't grumble loud enough to actually stop someone's presentation and having everyone know it was me

Everyone, Roll up the rim is back. When you go buy your tims coffee ask for a second cup. Eventually they'll run out of regular cups and start giving two roll up cups

Wow... you are so dumb and boring, I don't even know why I bothered eavesdropping...

To everyone waiting outside the bars on saturday night (at about 11:15 when I drove past, windchill -35) You're Crazy!

3 Mac. It's 10 other floors versus you. Take the stairs.

Would it kill people on likealittle.com to use proper words? You all come off as ghetto trash.

To the pretty girl who's from sudbury and in anthropology: You are the most amazing person I've met. What's your number???

Movember withdrawal is now in full force. Come on MoBros, grow some sexy facial hair for old time sake!

Your low cut tops are wayyyy too seductive ;)

Why the eff did I even have to pay for the stupid U-pass? I live 2 blocks from campus, and have a car. Will NEVER use it.

This is not a hiku

Did you know that the continued vibrating of your cell on the desk in the quiet room is just as distracting as if it was ringing?

Well, Godzilla has my vote.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist, hateful, libellous, or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we'll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).

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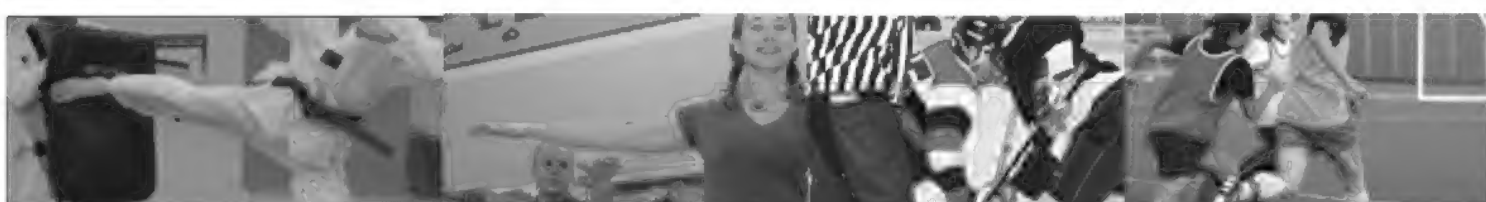
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Rm. W-10 and W-90, Van Vliet Centre  
or ONLINE at:  
[www.campusrec.ualberta.ca](http://www.campusrec.ualberta.ca)

**Application Deadline: March 10th, 2011 @ 4PM**

**Financial support available to facilitate healthy,  
active lifestyle projects!**

providing students with resources  
to be active citizens

# APIRG

Dedicated Fee Opt-Out Period

Every year APIRG provides approximately \$30,000 in direct grants, as well as in-kind services, support and training to student working groups, projects and events. We also maintain an office and resource centre, which is open to all APIRG members.

All of this is made possible by undergraduate students like you, who pay \$3.14 (full time) or \$1.56 (part time) per term to help students turn their ideas and projects into reality.

January 24 - March 25, 2011

To opt out of the APIRG dedicated fee, simply fill out a form and bring it to the APIRG office (9111 112 St in HUB Mall). If you prefer, you can also mail in your form.

Opt out forms can be downloaded from [www.apirg.org](http://www.apirg.org) or picked up at the APIRG office (9111 HUB Mall), SU Executive Offices (2900 SUB) and SU InfoLink booths.

[www.apirg.org](http://www.apirg.org)

# Don't bother with the now

The present is terrible, the future is terrifying — the past is where it's at



RYAN  
BROMSGROVE

point

Things aren't the same as they were back in the day, I tell you. Yes sir, times have changed for the worse. We've got all this global climate change turning Alberta into Mexico, then we'll be losing our ability to extract oil on the cheap, and the only way that won't be happening is if those there terrorists get nuclear weapons and kill us all first.

For a while in the past there was that feeling there'd be all-out nuclear war between superpowers annihilating civilization, for sure. But at least that was a problem with an easy fix — just keep it in your pants and don't press that big red button.

You may be thinking that before the internet, life just wasn't worth living. Where did you download things illegally? Where did you post your every

thought in 140 characters or less? How did you find that perfectly obscure piece of pornography that really nails your most secret fantasies?

Well, it used to be you had to pay for your moving pictures, and you kept your mind to yourself when in the john. People had a little more respect and didn't go bothering others unless they were ready to help put up a barn.

**I'm warning you  
about those robots.  
Up to no good, all that  
working without sleep.  
Unnatural.**

And as for the porn, you either built up your courage to go visit the peep show in the city and pay your nickel, or you stopped wasting your time and did something productive. Barns don't raise themselves, you know.

Nobody these days knows the joy coming from an honest day's work on the farm. Planting crops, milking cows, raising barns. No, now it's all

sitting in an office getting distracted by the Farmville on the Facebook, paying your micro-transactions for a few fake vegetables.

Dinner used to be food you brought home for the wife to cook. None of these tasteless microwavable burritos or homosexual marriages. No, sir. It was a man and a woman bringing up the eight children. You need the kids, you see, because putting up a barn up takes more than two pairs of hands.

Of course, these days you don't raise a barn the old fashioned way. You get some company to make its robots build it, then you get it shipped out to you ready-made. Takes all the character out of the work, if you ask me. And I'm warning you about those robots. Up to no good, all that working without sleep. Unnatural.

Back in the past we had fewer worries, better food, the politicians didn't bother us if we didn't bother them, and there was always a barn or two to raise. It would have been swell if three of my kids hadn't died of the polio and another hadn't been forced to work in the coalmines to help put the food on the table, but you can't have it all.

## A future with robots and McDonald's — what could possible be better?



DARCY  
ROPCHAN

counterpoint

Leonard Cohen once sang, "I've seen the future baby, it is murder." But as much as I hate to say it, Mr. Cohen was dead wrong. The future is like a giant movie trailer about life, in 3D. It's gonna be awesome. Much better than that shitty thing called the past.

What makes the future so great is that not even a genius like me can predict what will happen. Will we make contact with extraterrestrial life? Will there finally be world peace? And more importantly, am I going to have Pizza Hut or McDonald's for dinner tonight?

Although we can't predict what will happen, scientific estimates using technologies such as fortune cookies and horoscopes can provide tiny glimpses into what the future will be

like. Thinking about the future creates a sense of anticipation, like looking forward to being released from prison. The past on the other hand, only brings up sad memories, like that restraining order that sent you to jail in the first place.

**Scientific estimates  
through technologies  
such as fortune cookies  
and horoscopes can  
provide tiny glimpses  
into what the future  
will be like.**

Although people have chanted for years that children are the future, I can assure all the child-hating cynics of the world that this will not be the case. Have you seen kids these days? I don't trust them to make my sandwich at Subway, let alone run a country, an army, or anything vaguely important.

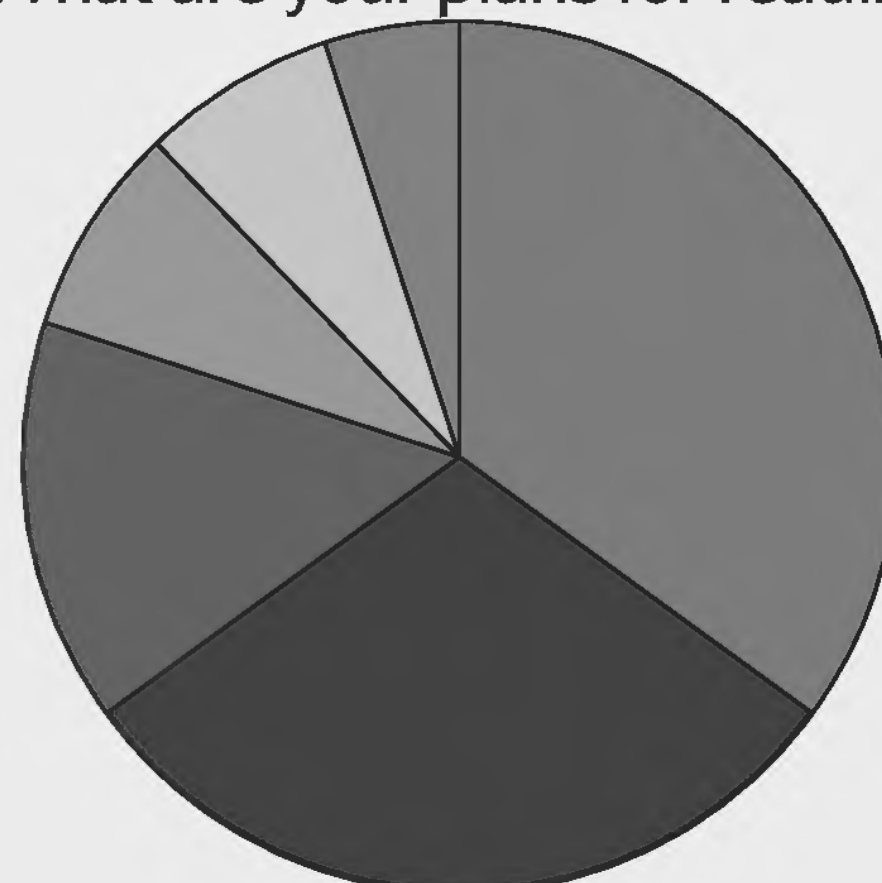
With genius celebrity robots like Watson winning at *Jeopardy!*, who's to

say we can't turn smart robots into doctors, CEOs, or even prime ministers. Besides, most of our politicians already have the personality of automatons — I don't see how things could get much worse. Why not give intelligent robots a shot at making life and death decisions. After all, don't you think it would be less awkward to make eye contact with a robot doctor after a prostate exam than a human one?

The past isn't as great as my history professors claim it is. Sure some people might refer to it as "the good old days," but I hardly think that's an accurate description. When people reminisce about the past, they tend to focus on the good points, glossing over all the failures and embarrassments that have been made. Similar to how a girl on Facebook will un-tag herself from a photo she took with you because she's ashamed to be seen standing next to you. But that's a different story. Witch burnings, the black plague, and two world wars all happened in the past. The past is bloody, terrifying, and confusing. If the past was so great, why would people have to repress memories? Yeah, that's what I thought.

## readerpoll

"What are your plans for reading week?"



**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

"Who would you like to see as SU president in 2011-2012?"

**vote online at [thegatewayonline.ca](http://thegatewayonline.ca)**



# POSTER SLAM 2011

YOU'VE SEEN THE POSTERS AROUND CAMPUS BY NOW — CANDIDATES IN THE STUDENTS' UNION ELECTION HAVE PASTERED EVERY FREE SPOT IN AVAILABLE WITH HORRIFYING POSTERS AND BANNERS. WE'VE DECIDED TO TAKE THESE POLITICAL HOPEFULS TO TASK OVER THEIR AWFUL DESIGN AND DISGUSTING USE OF COLOUR. CHECK OUT WHAT POSTER PUNDITS ALIX KEMP, DARCY ROPCHAN, MADELINE SMITH, AND RYAN BROMSGROVE HAD TO SAY.

## PRESIDENT RORY TIGHE

**Alix:** He has three different colours, you guys. So before you think he's boring, boring comes in three distinct varieties.

**Ryan:** But why stop at three colours? Why not one for every day of the week?

**Alix:** Couldn't the ties at least have interesting patterns? Couldn't he put paisley, at least?

**Darcy:** Rory Tighe's not a fan of the piano key necktie — too tacky.

**Alix:** Not as tacky as these posters.

**Darcy:** Come on, nothing sums up the momentum of your campaign like a necktie.

**Madeline:** Now that he's used this as part of his election platform, he better come to forums in the best ties you've seen in your life. They better be freaking sweet ties, because this is what he's tied himself to... That wasn't intentional.

**Alix:** That's worse than last year's pun — remember? "It's business Tighe!"

**Madeline:** Maybe people will think this is a joke candidate — elect this tie for president.

**Alix:** ... A really bad joke candidate.

**Darcy:** Even a bow tie would be more interesting.

**Alix:** This year in the presidential race, there's a choice between a piece of formal attire, or none of the above.

**Madeline:** None of the above's

non-existent poster might be more attractive.

**Madeline:** Clearly the bold font metaphorically shows the amount of student space we'll be using. I mean, I don't know, I'd say in general, these are all fairly boring platform points.

**Alix:** When's the last time the SU did anything to increase student space? The '70s?

**Ryan:** How about students in space? That would have got my attention.

**Alix:** You could have ties with astronauts on them.

**Madeline:** These aren't even campaign promises, they're just observations.

**Darcy:** So his three platform points are student space, student experience, and external advocacy.

**Alix:** Could you get more generic? This one says, "By building lines of communication, the Students' Union becomes more effective." With who? At what?

**Madeline:** What does that even mean? Is he going to install special phones in SUB where you can pick it up and be like, "Hi, Rory Tighe?"

## VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) EMERSON CSORBA

**Alix:** He doesn't have a full name [on his poster].

**Madeline:** No last name, no platform except "Balance school and self." Is he

going to take us for meditation? Are we going to do yoga? Is he gonna bake us cookies? I just don't get it. There's nothing on here to indicate why you want to vote for him.

**Alix:** He doesn't have a platform. He doesn't have a position.

**Ryan:** But he does have a lot of forehead wrinkles.

**Darcy:** He thinks a lot. He's a thinker.

**Madeline:** He's thinking about something ...

**Darcy:** It's clearly not academic stuff. Maybe he's wondering what he should get for lunch today.

**Madeline:** He's thinking, "I wonder what VP Academic does."

**Alix:** It's good that there's so many other candidates who clearly understand the VP Academic platform running ... oh wait. Again, another uncontested race where the poster shows no understanding of what the job actually entails. You're only making \$33,000 a year.

**Ryan:** Whatever. He's running for Obama.

**Alix:** Hope ... for a better candidate.

**Madeline:** Hope he knows what VP Academic does.

**Ryan:** It's no wonder students are so

apathetic when this is the caliber of poster we get.

**Alix:** What about this one? "Vision: Student research." What does that mean?

**Ryan:** He has a vision. It's student research.

**Madeline:** Student research? Like students researching a paper? In the library? What does that mean. Like are you gonna come help me look on JSTOR for my sources?

**Darcy:** I'll vote for him if he writes my papers for me.

**Madeline:** I feel like that's the last thing he should be emphasizing. Like students complain all the time about

how we're too research based, and there's not enough emphasis on good teaching. Why would you want to increase that?

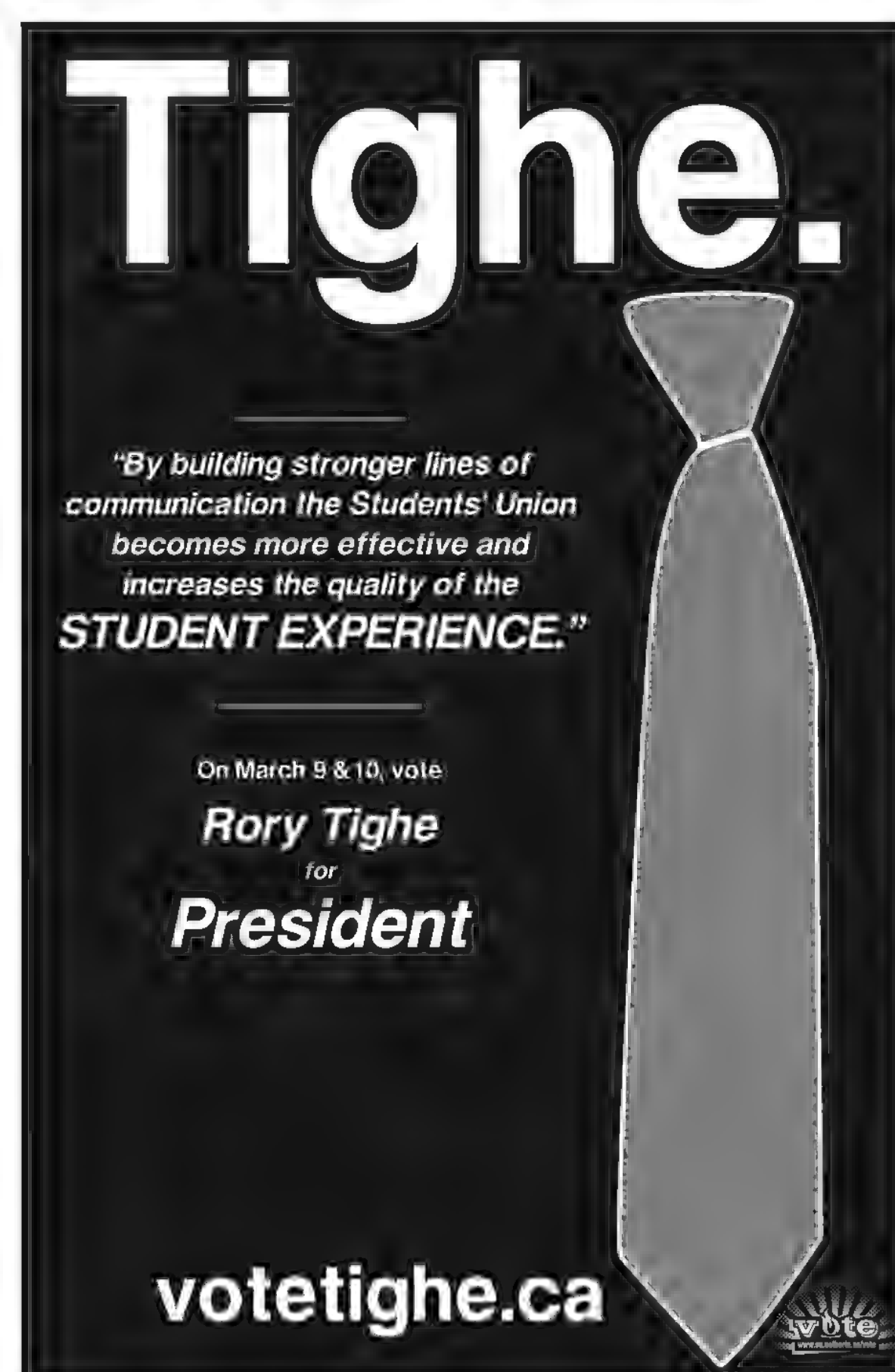
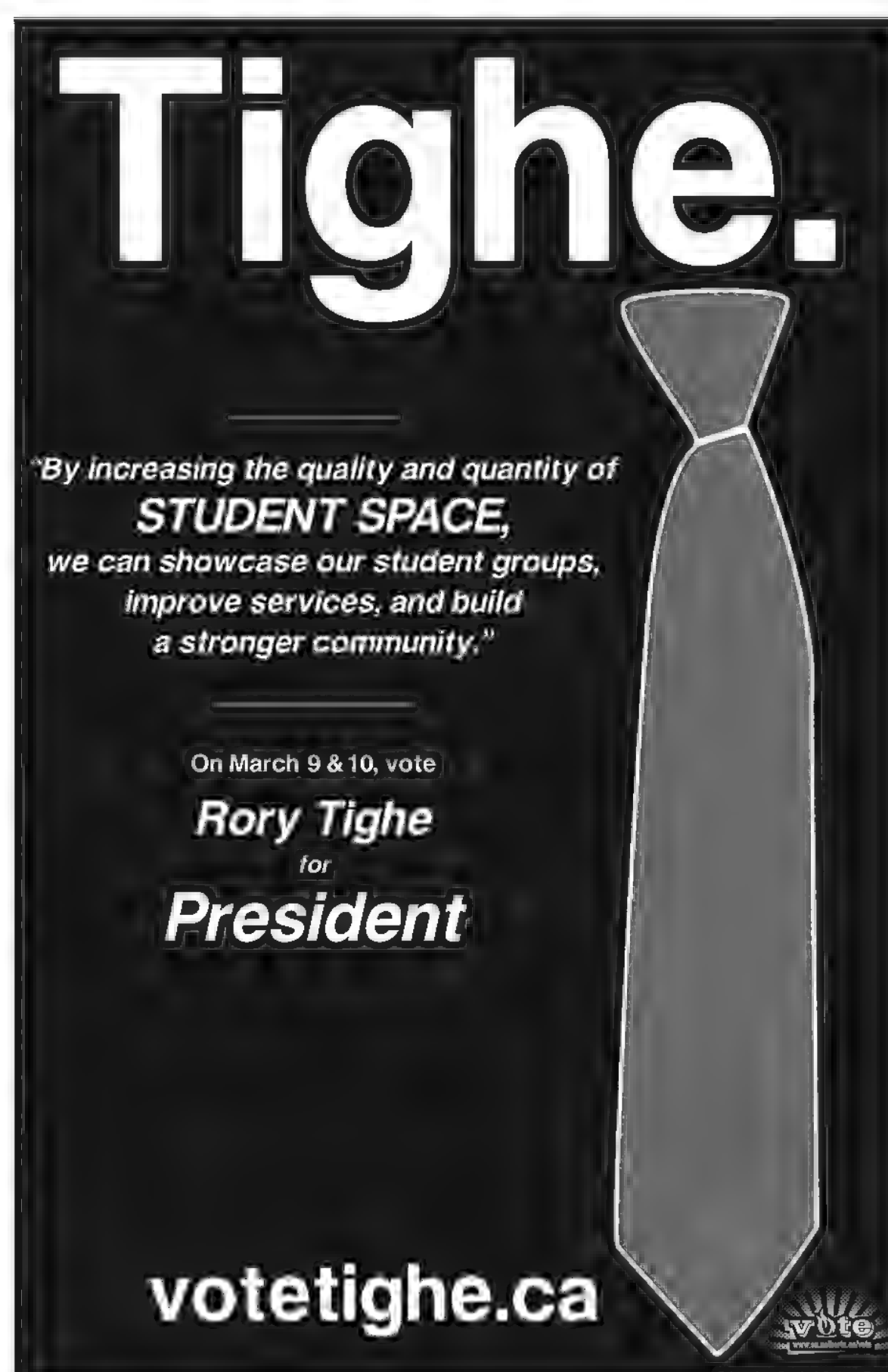
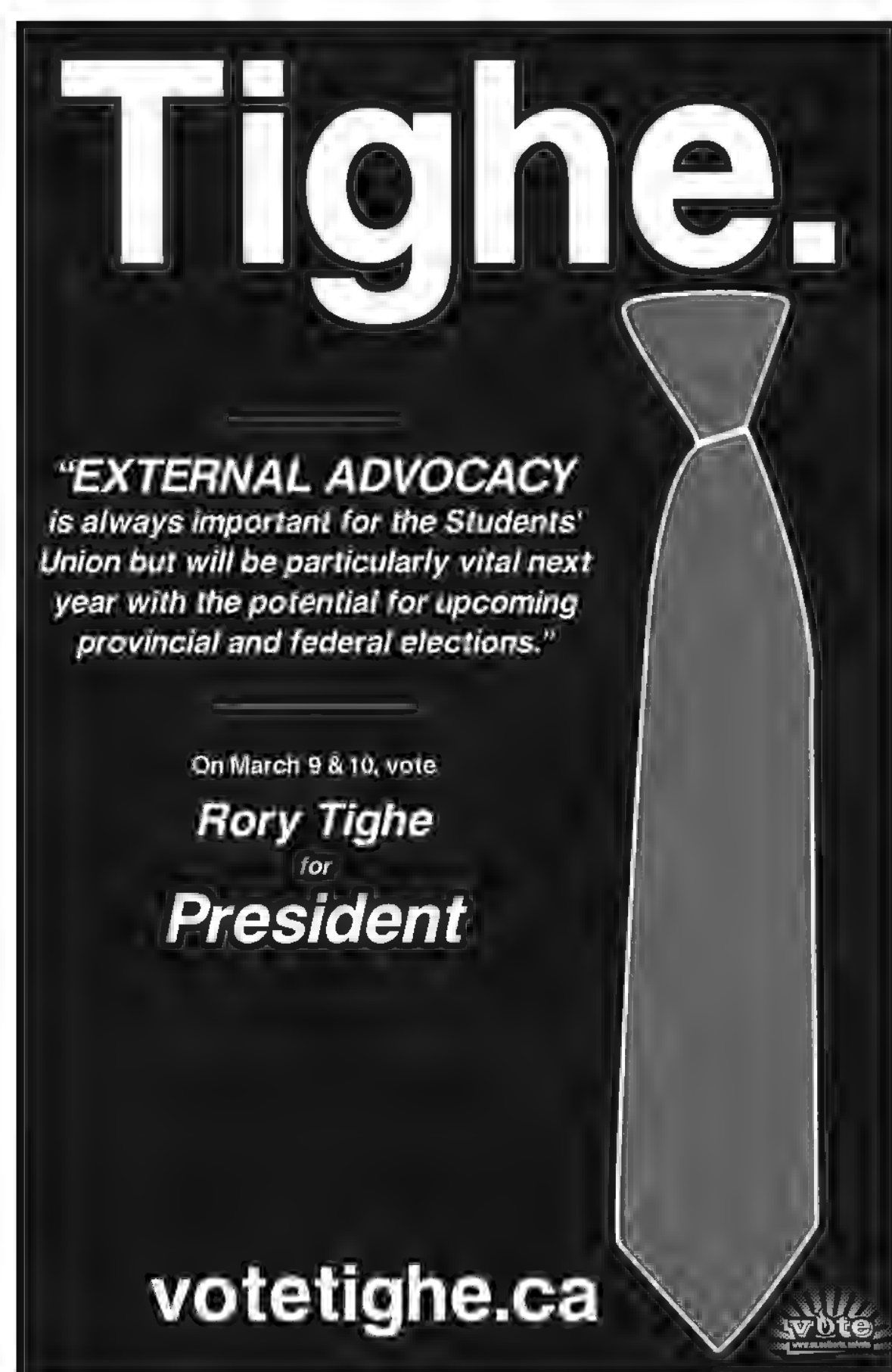
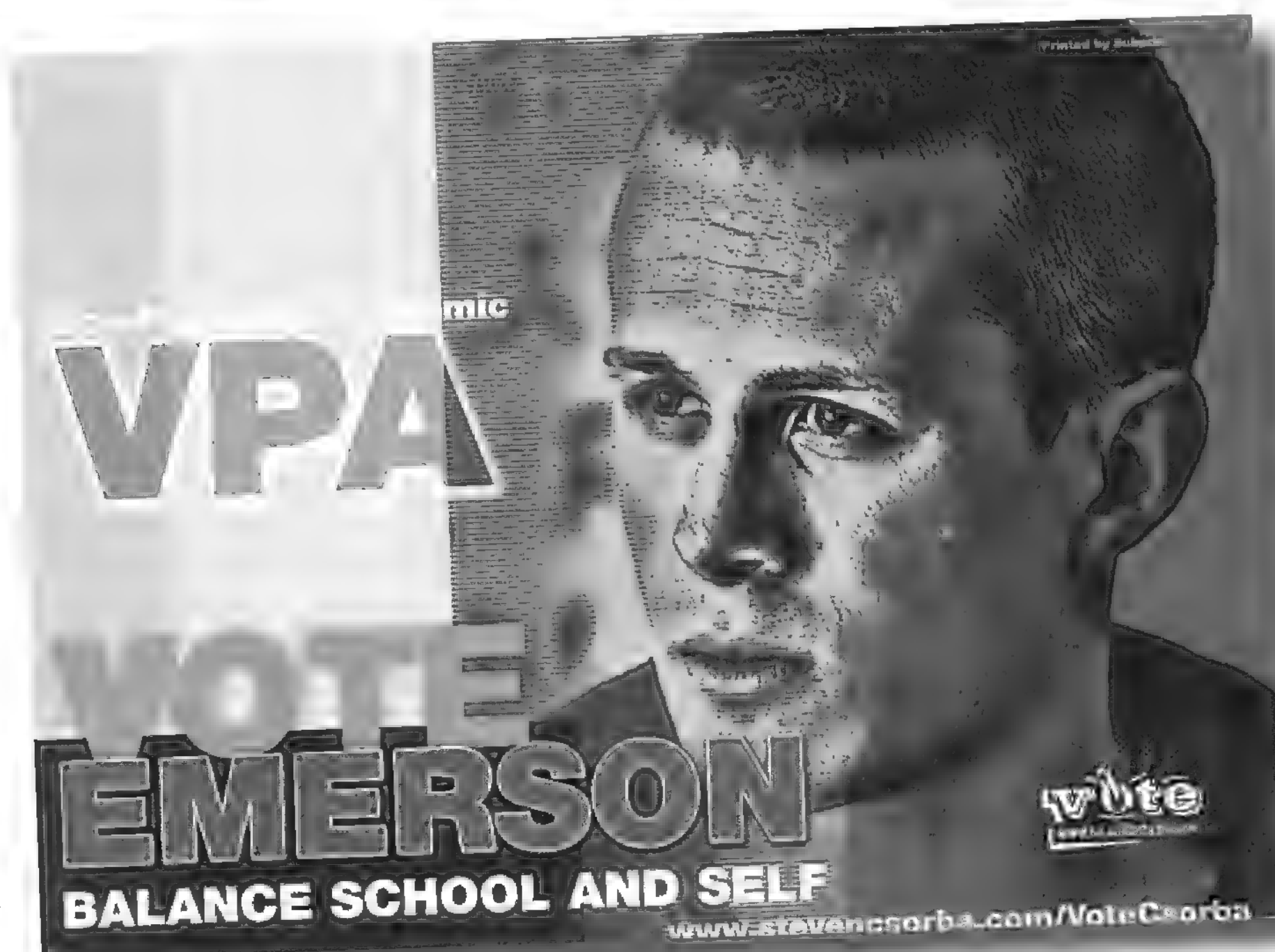
**Alix:** It's not even, "I'm gonna do student research," it's not even, "I have a vision of student research."

**Ryan:** Yeah, you don't know if it's him, so he doesn't have to deliver on it. It's also just a vision, doesn't mean he has to do anything.

**Alix:** I think he's implying he wants to research on students by doing creepy science experiments, like some kind of human centipede bullshit.

**Ryan:** So that's what student research is about, he's just going to sew us all together in a huge line.

**Darcy:** That's a good movie.





## VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL) FARID ISKANDAR

**Madeline:** This is just a clusterfuck, that's all I can say about it. I'm just so confused looking at this.

**Alix:** The more fonts you have, the more qualified you are?

**Darcy:** The only one that's missing is Windings.

**Madeline:** This is actually unbelievable. Someone needs to tell him how to use two fonts on a poster. It's like when you were in Grade 7, when you had to make a powerpoint presentation, with all the crazy transitions and letters on fire, and everything. That's the equivalent of this poster.

**Darcy:** He could have shaved a couple words off his eyebrows. They're a little bushy.

**Ryan:** I'm not sure if he has a word neck-beard or not.

**Madeline:** I think that's just his chin.

**Darcy:** He's got weird random words

under his mouth. Is that supposed to be a soul patch?

**Madeline:** His expression is just kind of creepy, too. He's not smiling, but his mouth looks really weird.

**Darcy:** It's like you're studying at the library and you look up, and you realize he's been staring at you for the past half an hour.

**Madeline:** What expression is that? What is he trying to say here?

**Ryan:** All we really know about him is that he's made up of words.

**Madeline:** It says "fidelity" for some reason. But why does it say fidelity?

**Ryan:** Does he have something against polygamists?

**Alix:** Fidelity to whom?

**Darcy:** Maybe he just needed an eight-letter word to fill the space.

**Alix:** Maybe he just finished watching *High Fidelity*.

**Darcy:** I like the sound of that word. I don't know what it means, but I think I'll use it.

**Alix:** So his main platform points are fidelity, transparency, and mandatory

non-instructional fees.

**Ryan:** With transparency, you can really see what he's going for here. He's practically see-through.

**Madeline:** He wants to regulate mandatory non-instructional fees. Not try to get rid of. Not decrease. Regulate.

**Alix:** He also says he wants on-campus polling stations. Don't we already have those? Am I missing something? Which election is he referring to? And limit tuition increases to CPI ... don't we do that?

**Darcy:** His platform is going to be, "I already delivered on all my election promises." When people say, "That's already been done," he'll say, "Exactly." He's in the future, man.

## VICE PRESIDENT (OPS FI) ANDY CHEEMA

**Madeline:** This looks like a dating profile. I mean look at that photo. He's like, "Hey ladies!"

**Darcy:** He's got the fake hand on the chin.

**Madeline:** "I'm so suave," yeah, like, "oh ho, I'm just brushing back my hair." Everything about this poster

just looks terribly awkward.

**Darcy:** Look how tense his arm is, you can tell he's not really resting on anything.

**Madeline:** How hard is it to actually go sit in SUB and look like you're kind of enjoying yourself?

**Darcy:** He looks like he's too old to be running in a student election.

**Madeline:** It looks very stiff. Like it's not that he looks old. He just looks very uncomfortable.

**Darcy:** It's like he googled campaign posters, and the first one that came up, that's how he modeled his. The fake smile, the hand on the chin.

**Darcy:** He borrowed his dad's suit, but it didn't quite fit. Except he looks 30.

**Madeline:** "Don't worry kids, Dad will take care of the money!"

**Darcy:** Or he's just like that creepy dude who hangs around campus, and eyes the girls, you know.

**Madeline:** He wants to redesign lower level SUB?

**Ryan:** Can we have the bowling alleys back?

**Alix:** Is that even what Ops Fi is supposed to do?

**Ryan:** What does lower level SUB not have that he thinks it should have?

**Alix:** Who knows? That would require specific campaign promises that are actually meaningful.

**Darcy:** Also the redesign, depends on what his definition of "redesign" is. Like, "Oh we're going to put a couple of plants here."

**Ryan:** "We'll paint it green this year."

**Darcy:** "Or we'll move some couches around."

**Alix:** He's using the same action words that people use on their resumes — "enhance food and beverage options."

**Madeline:** He's going to enhance the amount of MSG in Edo or something.

**Darcy:** Is he going to start a farm and grow his own fruits and vegetables here? Slaughter his own cow?

**Alix:** Oh well we could always kill Raph's pig and eat that.

**Madeline:** Maybe he's going to set up his own smoothie stand, or something.

**Darcy:** Or he's going to open up one of those Cheemo pyrogy things.

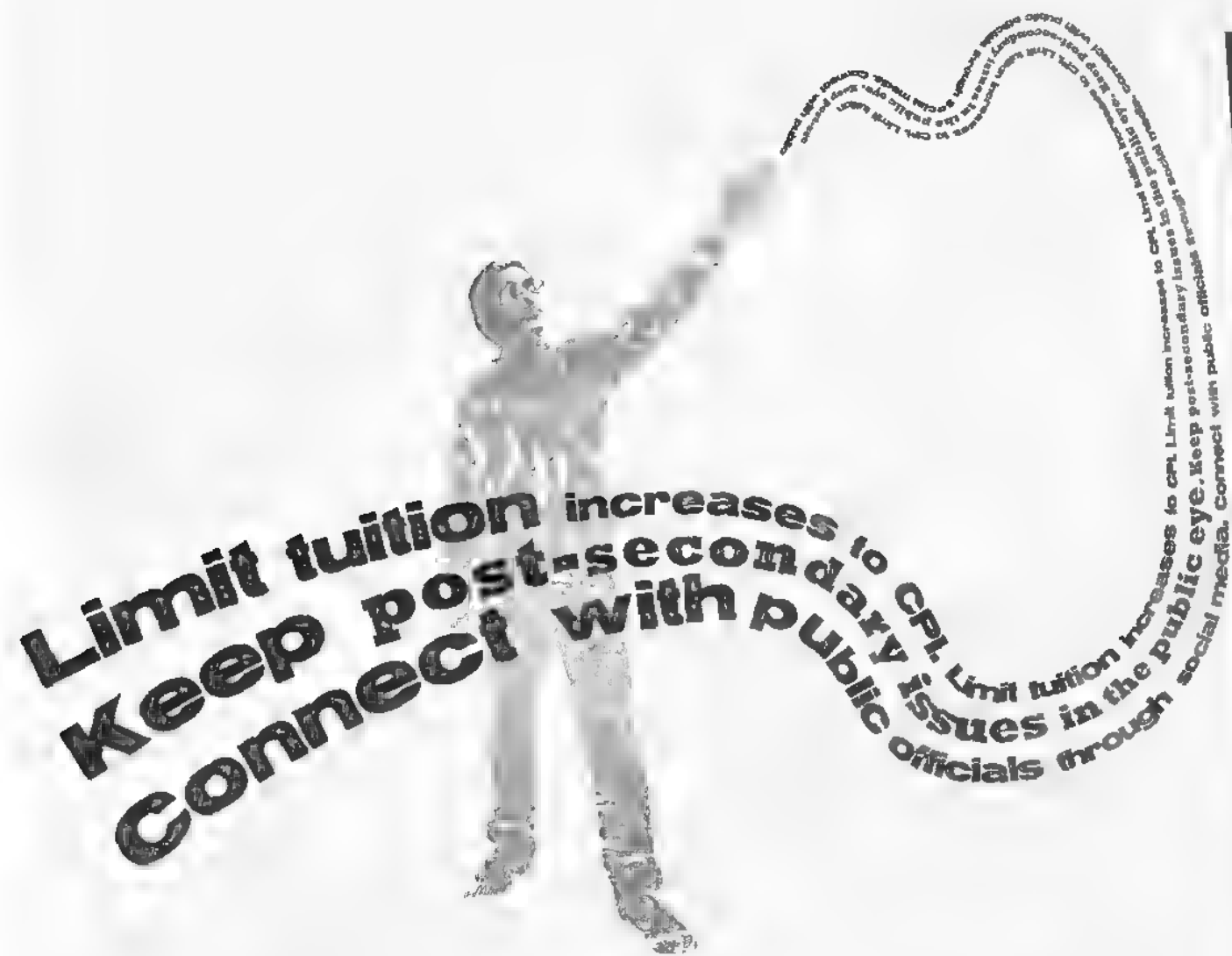
**Alix:** Cheema Pyrogies!

**Darcy:** There you go. That was terrible.

**Madeline:** So bad.

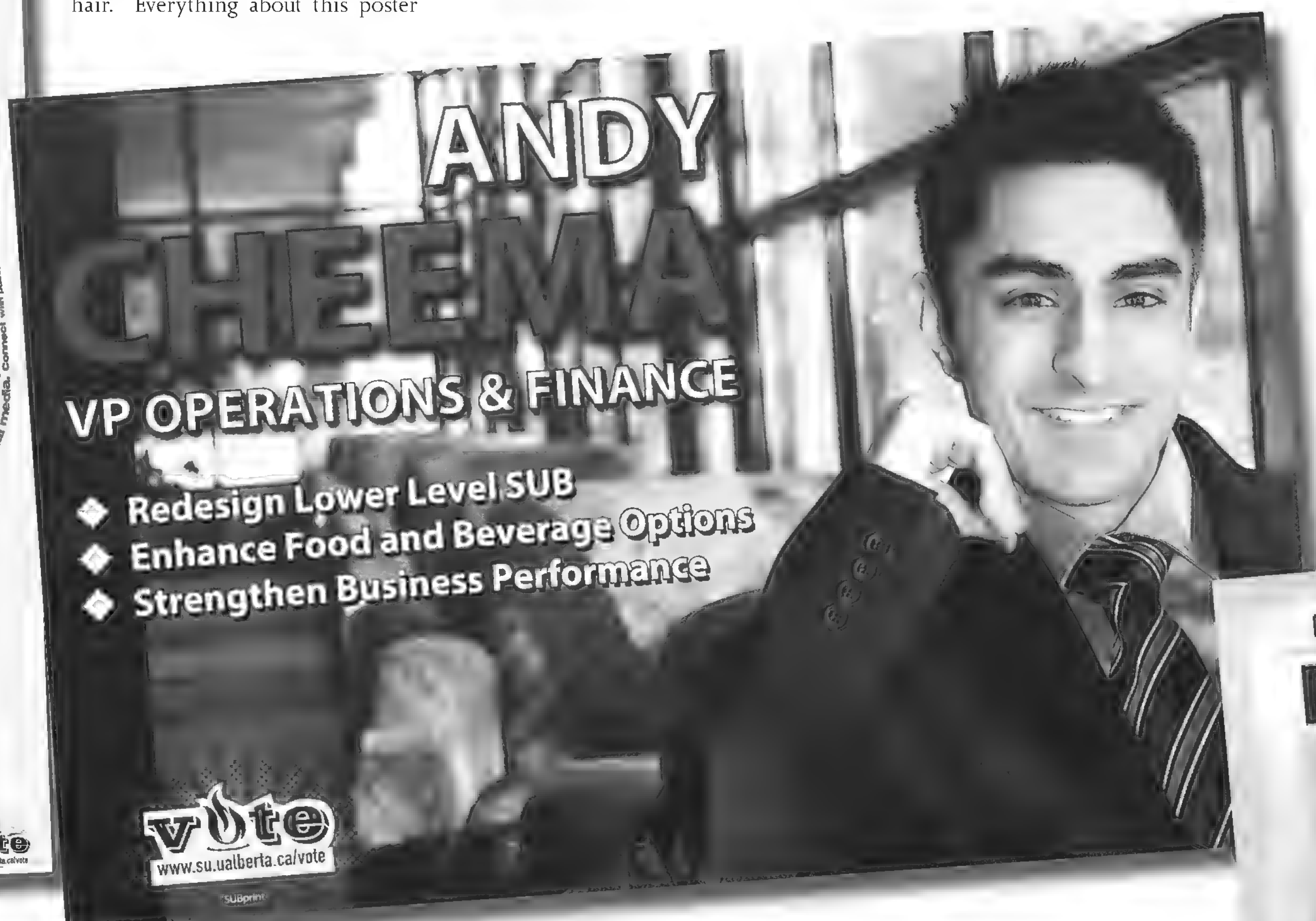
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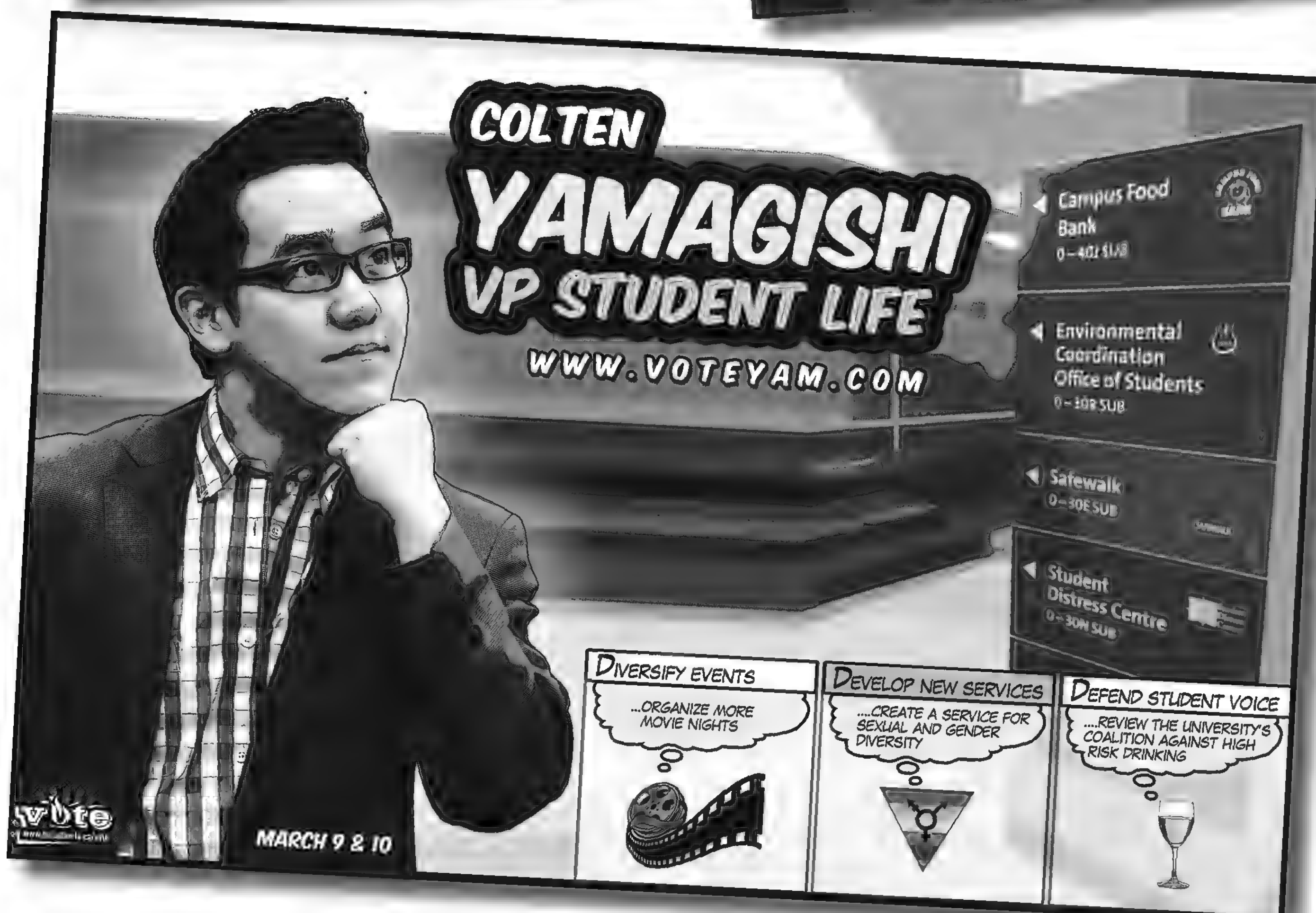


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## VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

### COLTEN YAMAGISHI

**Ryan:** For some reason, Colten has seen fit to give himself an uppercut. He's punching himself in the chin in this poster.

**Alix:** Yamagishi is clearly a superhero.

**Ryan:** If he's a comic book character, will it be possible to get him off the page to do the job?

**Alix:** Is he even a real person? We just don't know.

**Darcy:** I think it's good that he's not taking himself too seriously — at least he's having fun with it, you gotta give him props for that.

**Alix:** The buildings are thinking. They have thought bubbles.

**Darcy:** The thing I'm most concerned about is that he wants inanimate objects to become sentient. That's fucking terrifying.

**Ryan:** Not just that, but Lister is speaking. Look how much pollution that thought bubble is causing.

**Alix:** Apparently the towers want to make sure students voices are being heard.

**Darcy:** The shirt wants a thrift store. I wonder what my shirts would say if they could talk?

**Alix:** How did he choose these? "Yeah, we'll include the sentient movie reel that wants to have more movie nights, and also brings *The Exorcist* to life."

**Madeline:** Organize more movie nights? That doesn't seem that hard.

**Alix:** He wants to review the Student Coalition Against High-Risk Drinking. What is that? Why does he want to review it?

**Madeline:** It has a picture of a glass of wine.

**Ryan:** That's not really high-risk drinking. Why didn't he have a student doing a keg stand?

**Darcy:** Or a bottle of Jack Daniels?

**Madeline:** Even a bottle of beer, really.

**Darcy:** Or some guy at a party with a lampshade on his head.

**Madeline:** I don't know what to think about the campus musical. It's like he's trying to make the U of A into a high school.

**Alix:** Well, *Glee* is popular.

**Ryan:** He's not actually promising a campus musical, he just wants to inspire initiative for it.

**Madeline:** I don't know, that's kind of terrifying in itself. You've got arts students doing jazz hands ...

**Ryan:** ... science students stumbling around with no idea what they're doing ...

**Darcy:** They can't keep a beat.

**Ryan:** Indira and Amrhein doing the can-can.

**Alix:** On second thought, this is a great idea.

**Madeline:** I'd vote for Yamagishi if he performed a one-man musical about campus. There would have to be a section about Marco's.

### DAVID MCBEAN

**Madeline:** Look at the background! It looks like it's bursting from him.

**Alix:** Somebody was obviously on LSD when they made this.

**Madeline:** It's just like everything, like the huge background, and the varsity letters, and then the yellow

shirt — it's intense.

**Alix:** And we have so many of these campaign promises, I don't understand any of them. First ever SU volunteer pool? Is this a swimming pool? A pool table? What?

**Darcy:** Is it like a hockey pool?

**Alix:** All this poster says to me is, "Do lots of drugs." Is that what he means by sustainable food options?

**Darcy:** He's like, "I have the fucking munchies right now, okay? And I want some Doritos."

**Alix:** While we're at it, why don't we mention the Pokémon cards?

**Ryan:** They're incredible. No bad things to say about those Pokémon cards.

**Madeline:** Well we know his height and weight now.

**Alix:** He's probably lying about both.

**Ryan:** Are we going to have a Pokémon trading card tournament? I really want that.

**Darcy:** It says at the bottom, "Where has David McBean been all your university life?"

**Alix:** Apparently he's level 99.

**Ryan:** Oh, that's just lame. And he hasn't evolved yet? What's the problem? That's worse than Ash's Pikachu!

**Alix:** Well apparently he evolves into a new Vice President (Student Life).

**Ryan:** I'd expect that to happen before level 100 though.

**Darcy:** He doesn't weigh 190, give me a break. I fucking weigh 190. He's doing like a fierce tiger pose there.

**Ryan:** His length is six foot? Length? Length? That's enormous! I think that's too much for most students!

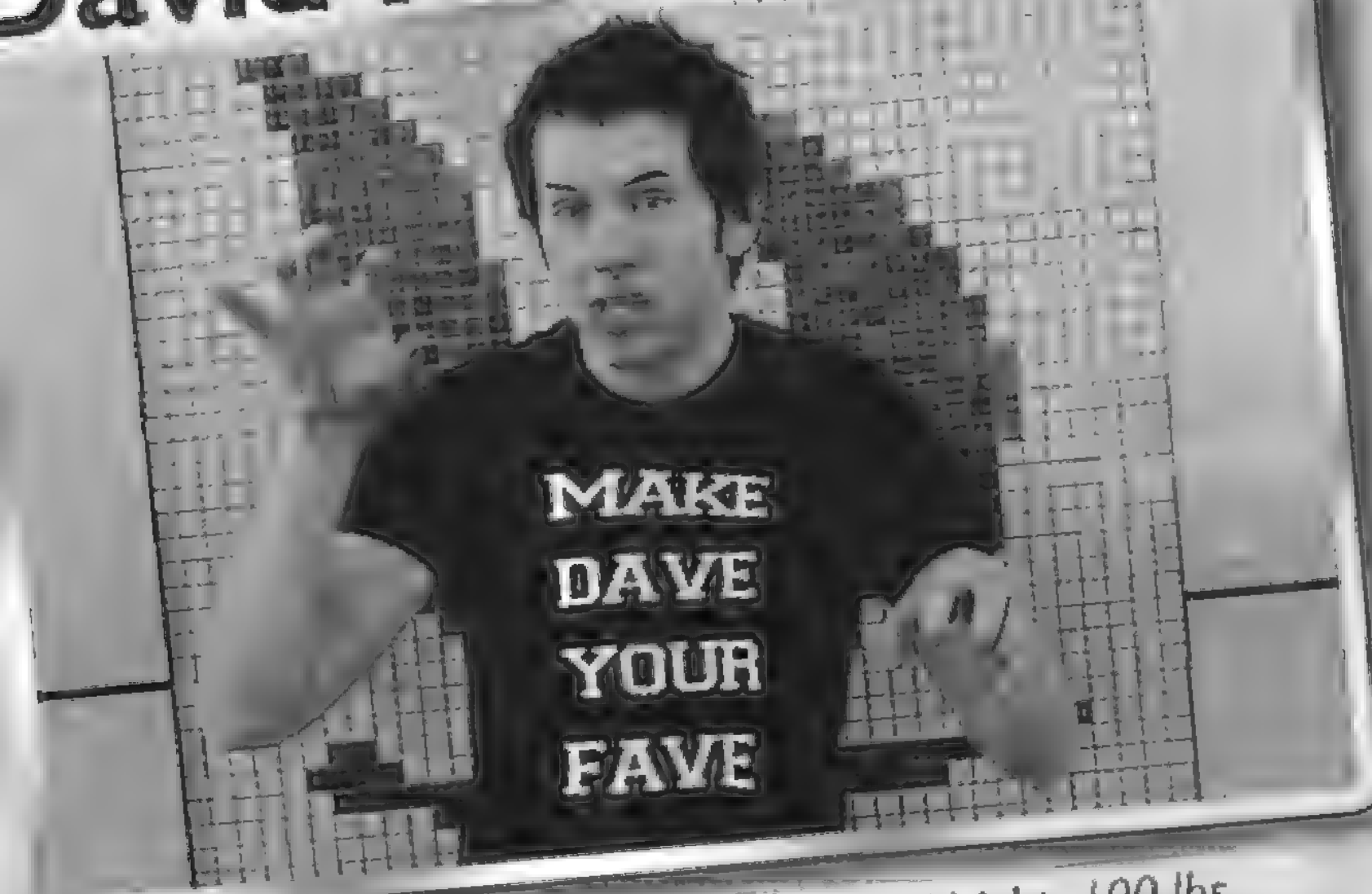
**Darcy:** That might be what he means by "make Dave your fave."

**Alix:** I don't know anything about that.

**Darcy:** No wonder he has that smile on his face. It's like, "I don't need you, I'm six foot!"

Evolves to a new Vice President Student Life.

David McBean 100 HP



VP Student Life, Length: 6' 0", Weight: 190 lbs.

**Executive Power: Sustainability** This candidate will focus on working with Aramark to have sustainable food options, as well as work with the Office of Sustainability to adhere to its recommendations by its sustainability audit

**YOU of A** Your University. 2011  
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For a better YOU of A, vote David McBean on March 9th and 10th.  
Where has David McBean all your university life? LV 99 #001

2/3 ★

Illus. NGYOFACE

printed at Subprint

"HE DOESN'T WEIGH 190.  
GIVE ME A BREAK. I FUCKING  
WEIGH 190. HE'S DOING LIKE A  
FIERCE TIGER POSE THERE."



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS REP

RAPHAEL LEPAGE FORTIN

**Alix:** I don't understand what is going on with this poster. What is the story supposed to be?

**Ryan:** We know what his governance is not going to look like, but what is it going to look like? No information on what he's actually going to do. He's just saying he's not going to save Christmas!

**Darcy:** It's not even Christmas time either, that was a few months ago.

**Alix:** Is he implying that we're pigs or something?

**Madeline:** Is he implying the Board of Governors are pigs?

**Alix:** Maybe he doesn't like Campus 5-0.

**Madeline:** I don't get it!

**Darcy:** He's against bacon!

**Ryan:** He'd better not be against bacon.

**Darcy:** He's trying to be cute and funny, but it's just coming across as terrible. It would have been better if the comic was relevant to what he was doing. Or if he had labels for him and the pig like one of those political cartoons.

**Alix:** Yeah, it'd be better if it had anything to do with the Board of Governors. Maybe if Indira was in — maybe he's saying Indira is a pig?

**Alix:** Also, he doesn't have a name. His name is Raph.

**Madeline:** Yeah, what's his last name?

**Ryan:** Is it short for Raphael?

**Alix:** It wouldn't be so bad if he had an actual picture of himself to go with

it, because then you might have some idea about who the fuck this guy is, but instead it's Raph, the cartoon, with the pig.

**Ryan:** Maybe Raph is the pig.

**Madeline:** True, the pig might be running for Board of Governors!

**Alix:** When I initially saw the banner in SUB, I thought this was for a joke candidate.

**Ryan:** Well he knows he's already won, so he doesn't have to put any sort of effort into it.

**Alix:** Yeah, this has to be one of the prime examples of candidate laziness because the race is uncontested. "Oh, I have a poster, now they know which box to tick besides none of the above."

**Madeline:** I'll draw a nice cartoon of a pig and students will love it.

**Ryan:** Students love shit like that!

**Madeline:** "Know the whole story"? What?

**Ryan:** He doesn't even tell us where to go to find the whole story!

**Alix:** He apparently doesn't have a website.

**Darcy:** If we want to know the story we have to vote for him.

**Alix:** Honestly that's a pretty ironic tagline given—

**Madeline:** —that this isn't a story! I just don't know. I'm really confused. Yeah. That's brutal.

## PLEBISCITE

### READING WEEK

**Alix:** I think this might be more boring than Tighe's poster.

**Madeline:** It looks like Tighe's poster. The colours are pretty much the same.

**Alix:** This is technically the "yes" side,

but this is not a "yes" poster. Benefits? Drawbacks? Who knows?

**Madeline:** It's hard to say a lot about this poster because there's nothing to it.

**Alix:** I like how they specify to vote on a fall reading week at the U of A — because we might be voting on it somewhere else.

**Alix:** They could at least have included some pictures of topless girls in Florida, but they didn't.

**Darcy:** Where are the pictures of kids dying of alcohol poisoning?

**Ryan:** Benefits: you'll be plastered in Puerto Vallarta. Drawbacks: you might lose a kidney.

**Darcy:** They took something exciting and wonderful and turned it into something boring and hateful.

**Alix:** It kind of looks like a black hole. Shouldn't fall reading week be a happy thing? Instead we're getting sucked into a pit of darkness and despair.

**Maddie:** This poster is far more boring than your reading week should be. Maybe they don't want to make us too hopeful. They're like, we'll give you this reading week, but you will actually spend that entire week dying in mountains of schoolwork.

## AWARDS

**Best poster:** Colten Yamagishi

**Worst poster:** Raphael Lepage Fortin

**Most impressive clusterfuck:** Farid Iskandar

**Biggest LSD explosion:** David McBean

**Best personal ad:** Andy Cheema

**Best phallic imagery:** Rory Tighe

**Best Obama impersonation:**

Emerson Csorba

**Best poster designed by a sixth**

**grader:** Fall Reading Week

"YEAH, THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF THE PRIME EXAMPLES OF CANDIDATE LAZINESS BECAUSE THE RACE IS UNCONTESTED. 'OH, I HAVE A POSTER, NOW THEY KNOW WHICH BOX TO TICK BESIDES NONE OF THE ABOVE.'"

Governance doesn't have to look like this:



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VOTE RAPH FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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VOTE ON A FALL READING WEEK AT THE UofA

BENEFITS? DRAWBACKS? VISIT WWW.FALLREADINGWEEK.CA FOR MORE INFO



ON MARCH 9 & 10

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## social intercourse



### Buckcherry

With Papa Roach, Bleeker Ridge, and My Darkest Days

Friday, March 4 at 7 p.m.

Edmonton Event Centre

(WEM 8882-170 Street)

\$53 and up at ticketmaster.ca

Buckcherry is no stranger to the hard rock world. Throughout their career, the California quintet has faced notorious scandals, several changes in line-up, and even a total collapse of the band, but they still never fail to deliver head-thrashing party tunes like "Too Drunk" and "Crazy Bitch." On their fifth record, it doesn't seem like Buckcherry is going to let their party spirit die, considering the album is titled *All Night Long*. They'll be playing with fellow rockers Papa Roach, and they're sure to play one of the loudest shows of the weekend.

### Owls By Nature

With Noisy Colours

Saturday, March 5 at 4 p.m.

Filthy McNasty's (10511A-82 Avenue)

Free

While the rest of us were sleeping (or writing last-minute essays), three men were singing and strumming away from the dead of night to the ass-crack of dawn. Understandably, they call themselves Owls By Nature. Armed with guitars, a banjo, and tight vocal harmonies, this local trio can turn heads and serenade listeners with both gentle nocturnes and edgy acoustic songs. And don't worry, you don't have to be nocturnal to hear them — the band's music will see the light of day this Saturday afternoon at Filthy McNasty's with a free performance.

### Eighth Annual Stars of Hope

Saturday, March 5 at 7 p.m.

Jubilee Auditorium (11455-87 Avenue)

\$23 at ticketmaster.ca

Can you think of one thing cooler than raising funds for cancer? I can. How about hundreds of dancers busting a move for kids with cancer? That's exactly what's happening this Saturday evening. More than 600 dancers from 30 dance organizations are coming together at the Jubilee Auditorium for this year's Stars of Hope show. Help them reach their goal of raising \$35,000 for the Kids With Cancer Society this year by bringing your friends to witness this spectacular evening of dance.

### The Fugitives

With Tanya Davis

Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Festival Place

(100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park)

\$18 at ticketmaster.ca

There are few bands who fuse folk, hip-hop and spoken word into their sound, and there are even fewer who can do it as well as The Fugitives. The best way to describe them would be slam poetry with music. Picture an electrified poet with a microphone — sometimes with a piece of paper in their hand — reciting a poem with a certain spontaneous energy. Now add some modern folk into the mix and you get The Fugitives. Still a little hard to imagine? Check them out this weekend and your doubts may give way to delight.

**DULGUUN BAYASGALAN**  
Flyin' Solo on Social Intercourse



# Breaking up with the love ballad

Danny Michel reflects on the ways his songwriting has changed over the span of his career

## musicpreview

### Danny Michel

With Erica Viegas

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Myer Horowitz Theatre (SUB)

\$26.50 at Blackbyrd and ticketmaster.ca

MADELINE SMITH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When a 16-year-old Danny Michel stepped up to the microphone for one of his first live performances, he shouldn't have even been allowed in the venue. Playing a bar in Ontario that's since been shut down, Michel and his underage bandmates had to sneak in for the chance to perform a few cover songs from The Clash.

"That's a long time ago; you're making me feel really old," Michel laughs. "Over 20 years for me. Wow, that's weird. I guess when I think about it, I was 16, so that was 25 years ago. That's insane."

"Those are the days," he continues. "I remember being on tour with my band before cell phones, before bottled water, before all that. We'd be driving across Canada and you'd need to pull over to a gas station and find a pay phone. That was awesome — that was way better."

Michel may be nostalgic for the memories of his time on the road as a young man, but change is a crucial part of his growth as a musician. His lengthy experience in the music industry has given him an entirely new perspective on how he goes about making music. With a steadily growing catalogue of original music under his belt, Michel's music has undergone a variety of transformations since he started releasing

material in the late 1990s.

"I don't like any of my old records," Michel says emphatically. "It's like looking at high school photos of yourself. I'd like to think that I get better as I grow. I like my last three records — before that, I can't really listen to those."

Michel's most recent releases have seen him transform his music from softer, more singer-songwriter oriented songs to folk anthems with politically charged lyrics. "Feather, Fur & Fin," from the 2008 album of the same name, is an environmental anthem, calling people to realize the damage that is being done to the earth.

**"I don't like any of my old records. It's like looking at high school photos of yourself. I'd like to think that I get better as I grow."**

**DANNY MICHEL**

"I used to have more love songs, for sure," Michel says of the change. "I've been trying not to write those anymore. The world has got enough of those; there's no lack of them. And I don't want to spend my whole life whining — there's gotta be something more to say."

He admits, though, that he can't always escape the ever-present lure of a good love song. His latest offering, *Sunset Sea*, includes a vocal contribution from fellow Canadian folk music heavyweight Sarah Harmer on the closing track "Binary Star."

"[Sarah and I] just sang the mushiest love song ever — ever!" Michel laughs. "So I do still write love songs; I just don't want to write a whole record of them. There can just be a few on a

record instead of the whole thing. I have more to say now, and the world has more problems now and the world needs help — not just whining about love."

"We live in a crazy world," Michel continues. "I mean, I write about war and religion and prejudice now. [...] Gosh, I could open a newspaper and tell you about it. Dozens of things I would like to sing about, but I'm gonna save those ideas for the songs."

Although Michel has begun to write songs that explore subject matter with more gravity, he hasn't necessarily become a screaming activist for the causes he sings about. While he's constantly busy both making music and handling the business side of his work, Michel chooses to live outside the city, in a considerably more isolated rural area in Ontario, away from the "crazy world" he addresses in his songs.

"I'm a pretty quiet, private guy, actually," Michel explains. "I've spent my whole life being in clubs, in bars, around lots of people, playing and all that stuff. It's just too much for me, and so quiet time is really important to me."

"If you have a place in the city, there's not enough room, people complain about the noise, it's expensive, you're going to get robbed — all those things. But here, I can start beating on a drumset at four in the morning."

Michel may have made some changes to his style over the last quarter of a century he's spent making and performing music, but he's grateful for the place he's been given in the Canadian arts scene. From admittedly writing about things he didn't understand as a teenager, to his current mission of bringing attention to causes he cares about, Michel's music will always be inextricably tied to his own identity.

"When I think about it, I've never done anything else," he says. "I've just done music. It's like, wow, how did I pull that off?"



# Former *Fresh Prince* star forever doing the Carlton

Now this is a story about how 1990s sitcom star Alfonso Ribeiro's life got flipped, turned upside down

## a&eprofile

### Alfonso Ribeiro

Appearing at Lucky 13  
(10551-82 Avenue)  
Thursday, March 3

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

The flamboyant dance that's made Alfonso Ribeiro famous has been haunting him for the past two decades. Best known for his role as Carlton Banks on the 1990s sitcom hit *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, Ribeiro has been followed by his famous alter ego since the show went off the air.

Despite his constant association with Carlton, Ribeiro's been busy with other projects, including a position as the director of the new TBS show *Are We There Yet?* and a stint on Fox's *Celebrity Duets*.

Ribeiro understands that the character that has overshadowed his professional career for more than 20 years is the same character that has allowed him to be so successful since the conclusion of *The Fresh Prince*

in 1996. The obsession with Carlton often reaches uncomfortable levels.

"It is what it is," Ribeiro says. "I understand the fascination and the love of the character — that's basically the way I look at it. I'm going to have to deal with talking about this character for the rest of my life, I might as well get paid for it."

"At the end of the day, I don't get frustrated by anything that [fans do], because it's been happening for over 20 years. People say some of the dumbest things that I've ever experienced. And I don't believe that the dumb questions are ever going to stop."

Carlton Banks has turned into a contemporary pop culture meme for millions of fans who watched *The Fresh Prince* in the 1990s. The character's idiosyncratic personality attracted fans to the show and has continued to keep Ribeiro in the public eye since the cancellation of the popular show.

"There is a cross understanding there that is different from anything that's ever been done. It's not like [*Family Matters* character Steve] Urkel — who's a caricature — Carlton

is an actual guy," Ribeiro says of his former character's appeal. "He might be a little over the top, he might be a little broad at times, but he's still a guy that people can relate to."

But Ribeiro has also found that the public's admiration for the character has developed into a delusional understanding of his own personality, and how connected he really is to Carlton. While he played the character for more than six years, the new director asserts that he isn't a mirror of his famous role.

"What's interesting is that my voice is still the same," Ribeiro says. "Ultimately, when people listen to me they're like, 'Dude, you're just like the character.' No. I don't actually think about anything in the same way as Carlton. What makes somebody different? It's their thoughts, it's their beliefs, it's all those things that make somebody different. I don't share any of those things with Carlton. To me, that's what makes me a unique person from the character."

So Ribeiro, with an ingrained understanding that he may never

shrug off the typecasting linked to Carlton, a character that he portrayed so well on the nationally-syndicated television series, continues to pursue his

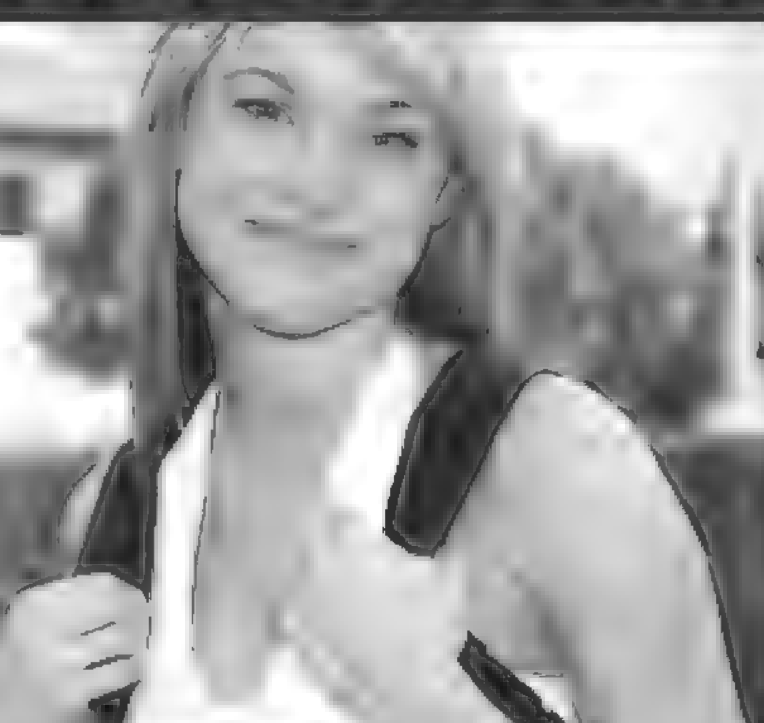
passions with humility.

"I'm very much a realist — I'm not a fan of myself," Ribeiro concludes. "I don't blow myself up to think that I'm something different than what [the character] is, even though it might be something where everybody says, 'Wow, this guy represented a generation; he's legendary.' I've heard all sorts of things, but I don't view myself that way. For me, I loathe that attention."



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# Berner fuses pop and politics

## musicpreview

**Geoff Berner**  
With *Kris Demeanor*  
Friday, March 4 at 8 p.m.  
The ARTery (9535 Jasper Avenue)  
\$12 at the door

**ALIX KEMP**  
Opinion Editor

While songs about pimps and going to jail might not sound like typical subject matter for traditional Jewish folk songs, Geoff Berner would be inclined to say otherwise. According to the Vancouver-based folk musician, the irreverence, black humour, and scathing social commentary so prevalent on his new album *Victory Party* aren't necessarily alien ideas in klezmer music.

"I'm continuing to work in a tradition of those things being an essential part of Jewish culture," Berner explains over the phone. "There's a long history of satire and black humour there, a lot of dark jokes inspired by the dark experiences of the Jewish people. [...] So you know, there's no shortage of political songs and stories and novels in the traditional Jewish cultural world, and there's a long history of radical Yiddish thought that goes back centuries."

"What I'm doing is not innovative," Berner concludes. "It's merely reaching into a long tradition."

After finishing the *Whiskey Rabbi* trilogy of albums in 2008, Berner is back with something different. For *Victory Party*, he worked with Josh Dolgin, better known by the moniker Socalled, a Canadian producer whose own music fuses hip-hop and klezmer. It's a departure from how Berner made his previous albums, which were essentially recorded live. It makes for a more polished sound, which Berner says is "bigger" and "fuller" than his previous albums.

"The trilogy got a lot of attention and did well for me, and for me to go, 'Remember the trilogy? Well, here's another one like that!' would have been kind of lame," Berner says.

Some things, however, will remain the same — Berner's approach to humour and politics hasn't changed since the first installment of the *Whiskey Rabbi*



trilogy in 2005. According to Berner, all art has a political perspective — even *American Idol*.

**"If you leave out issues of how power and money get distributed, and what the priorities of our people should be, then you're leaving out an awful lot of the world."**

**GEOFF BERNER**

"I aspire to be an independent man of the left," Berner says. "So my art has a left-wing bent. But it's just funny how if you're a lefty, then they say you're political. But if you're just fine with the way things are [...] they don't say that's political. But it is political to make a record that doesn't talk about how [...] there might be something wrong going on from time to time."

Besides, Berner says, art is supposed to have a political bent. "If you leave out issues of how power and money get distributed, and what the priorities

of our people should be, then you're leaving out an awful lot of the world," he explains. "In the same way that if you didn't have any love songs, you've be leaving out something too."

As with previous albums, Berner will be touring extensively in Canada and abroad. The musician's travels have obviously influenced him, with songs on previous albums carrying titles like "Song Written in a Romanian Hospital," and "The Traveller's Curse." Still, Berner sees travel as more of a blessing.

"I don't think you really understand your own home until you've been away for a while," he remarks. "You don't really see it until you get a sense of what other places are like."

Wherever he goes, Berner will bring with him his sense of humour, his wit, and a stunningly sharp intellect. Certainly he's no stranger to controversy, and whether he's poking fun at politics through his songs or running a joke platform for the Rhinoceros Party of Canada, his presence is making an impact on Canadian culture.

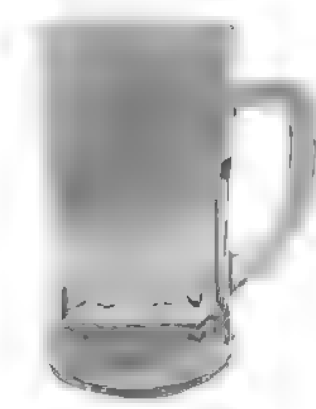
"I think [humour is] a good way to disarm people's assumptions and prejudices. Humour, I think, actually changes people's minds. As opposed to slogan shouting. Or reason."



MADELINE SMITH

**FOLK FORCES** Jim Bryson performs with members of The Weakerthans Tuesday night at the Myer Horowitz Theatre

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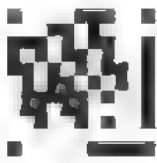
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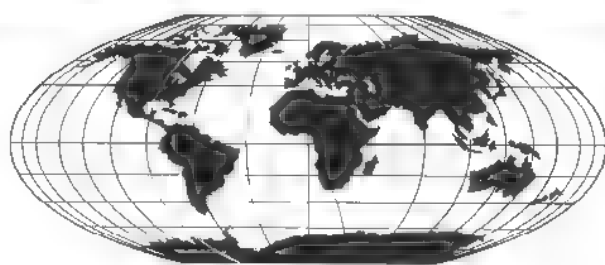
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- classes would begin on the Wednesday before Labour Day (the first Monday of September);
- the Fall Reading Week would occur the same week as Remembrance Day (November 11th);
- the number of instructional days in the Fall Semester would remain at sixty-three (63); and
- the Fall Reading Week would not apply to certain faculties and programs as per the current Winter Reading Week?

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

about the elections process please contact Jaskaran Singh, Chief Returning Officer at [cro@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:cro@su.ualberta.ca) or visit [www.su.ualberta.ca/vote](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/vote)



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## Finding the beauty in a remake

## filmreview

## Beastly

Directed by Daniel Barnz  
Starring Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Hudgens, and Mary-Kate Olsen  
In Theatres March 4

ALANA WILLERTON  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

We all like to think that if forced to make the choice, we'd be able to look beyond appearances. Let's not kid ourselves though: that's a lot easier said than done. Just consider the film *Beastly*, the latest modern day retelling of the fairytale *Beauty and the Beast*.

On the outside, high school student Kyle Kingson (Alex Pettyfer) appears to have it all: good looks, money, and endless popularity. Unfortunately, he's also a selfish prick who has a deep hatred for all things ugly, especially fellow classmate Kendra (Mary-Kate Olsen). When a nasty prank goes too far, Kendra, who turns out to be a witch, casts a spell on Kyle that transforms him into a disfigured monster. He's given a year to find someone to love him, or face being trapped in his new body forever. Kyle proceeds to develop feelings for the previously overlooked Lindy (Vanessa Hudgens), and when a drug deal gone wrong puts her life in danger, he begins to realize that she might truly be his only hope at finding love.

What really sets this adaptation of the well-known fairytale apart is Kyle's transformation into the beast. Instead of being turned into the usual furry



animal, he is given grotesque scars, tattoos and deformities that cover his entire body. This leaves Kyle with a bit of chance, because while most of us would be hard-pressed to find someone willing to overlook an entire coat of fur, a few scars and tattoos don't necessarily disqualify someone entirely from marriage material.

Ample shots of an unnecessarily shirtless Kyle allow the audience to get a good look at his new reality, which is actually not as bad as it sounds. Sure, he won't be gracing the cover of a cereal box anytime soon, but there's something strangely captivating about his tattoos, which bear a great resemblance to tree branches spread out across his body. A prominent tattoo of a tree on his forearm magically blooms and wilts with the changing seasons, representing Kyle's countdown to the end of his year-long search for love.

Since most people are already familiar with the story of *Beauty and the Beast*,

the plotline of *Beastly* is, for the most part, fairly predictable. One pleasant surprise is the presence of Neil Patrick Harris, who is not exactly the type of actor you'd expect to find in a movie like this. Playing Kyle's blind tutor Will, Harris provides *Beastly* with not only credibility as a film, but also the few sparse laughs in a plot that otherwise takes itself far too seriously.

*Beastly* is exactly what you would expect of a movie starring the likes of former *High School Musical* star Vanessa Hudgens and an Olsen twin: innocent, unrealistic, and campy. But that's okay, because that's what makes it work. While it may not be in the running to win an Oscar, the film manages to transform an extremely well-known story into a likeable modern adaptation. *Beastly* accomplishes its mission in that, if only for a few hours, it sucks its audience into believing that sometimes love truly can conquer all.



## An animated Western tale for all ages

## filmpreview

## Rango

Directed by Gore Verbinski  
Starring Johnny Depp and Isla Fisher  
In Theatres March 4

RYAN BROMSGROVE  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"Why does animation have to be linked with Happy Meals?" wonders Gore Verbinski, director of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy and upcoming animated movie *Rango*. "It's just a technique to tell a story."

"I think that animation is referred to as a genre like it's for kids and moms, and I don't know where that comes from," Verbinski says, emphasizing that his approach to cartoons is shaped somewhat differently. "In the case of *Rango*, it's identity quest and a Western. We take those two concepts and splice them together."

With his latest film, Verbinski aims to defy the restrictive concept of animation as a genre. The story revolves around a pet chameleon named Rango (Johnny Depp), abruptly removed from his comfortable terrarium and thrown into the old west town of Dirt. After almost

being eaten by a bird, the Hawaiian shirt-wearing lizard walks into a bar and, aspiring to be a hero, wins the furry desert creatures over with a tale of how he killed seven brothers with one bullet. He takes on the role of sheriff and tries to fit in, but faces a growing identity crisis as he struggles to live up to the expectations he's created.

Verbinski acknowledges that Westerns have had a huge effect on his movie-making career. His films frequently feature cowboy-like hero figures and Western references.

"I think the [*Pirates of the Caribbean*] movies were Western," Verbinski says. "When I was very young, I found Sergio Leone movies — you know, *Duck, You Sucker!* and *Once Upon a Time in the West*. I saw them probably at an age-inappropriate period, and felt like I was sneaking into a forbidden world. And so I'm a fan of the Western, but really the most modern Western. [...] Those sort of things are — have always been present, I think, in my DNA."

Despite familiarity with the genre, the production process was lengthy. "We worked for a year and a half just on the story," Verbinski recalls of the development. "Drawings, pencil and paper, a Macintosh, a microphone, a guitar. There [were] seven of us in

this house, super lo-fi."

When it came to putting the film together, Verbinski had the actors come together in costume on sets to bounce off each other. "When you make an animated film, there's so many iterations. Things become homogenized, cold, or clinical. It was very important that we get something raw and intuitive."

In addition to the limitations imposed upon the actors voicing an animated movie, Verbinski has also had to deal with the perception of animation as a children's genre. Some have criticized *Rango*'s inclusion of more mature elements in the film, noting that the storyline includes a lot of tension, particularly for young audiences.

However, Verbinski's sure the film still appeals to children and adults alike. "The stuff that's not for kids, they won't recognize," he says. "There's plenty of slapstick humor. [Kids] seem to really stick with this movie, and then particularly in the sections where it becomes more emotional, you really see them kind of stop squirming and [become] sort of transfixed by the film."

"I never really set out to make a movie for an audience," he says, "[I was] just trying to make a movie that I like and I would like to see."

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## Flustered Bears navigate return to national glory

### volleyballpreview

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

A poor showing at last weekend's Canada West Final Four tournament has left the Volley Bears searching for answers as they begin a trek towards triumph at the upcoming national championships.

But as Danyluk explains, in preparing for the national championships his squad has reflected on their mistakes and will be less likely to repeat them in their upcoming games.

"Last weekend was a time in sport where we had our opportunities and didn't take advantage of them. Now it's one of those times where we have the chance to regroup," he said. "The team is thinking about the things that are important to them. They're thinking about the things that are going to allow them to play their best

**"The team is thinking about the things that are important to them. They're thinking about the things that are going to allow them to play their best volleyball this weekend."**

**TERRY DANYLUK**  
HEAD COACH, BEARS VOLLEYBALL

After failing to reach the podium at this year's CanWest final, the Bears confidence is at an all-time low. However, with the stakes raised and a rematch of last weekend's CanWest bronze medal game against the Trinity Western Spartans just around the corner, the power-house Bears have the opportunity to regain their momentum and make a charge towards raising the national championship trophy for the sixth time in the team's history.

"I hope we're ready to go. We don't have any other choice right?" said Bears head coach Terry Danyluk. "With the chance to play Trinity again [...] now we've got a chance to regroup and see whether or not we can do better than we did last weekend."

Being trounced on their home court last weekend has taught the Green and Gold a bitter lesson — to not take their opponents for granted. It was evident last weekend the team was not prepared for the challenges they would face through the weekend. Making several mental errors at pivotal points in their games, the Green and Gold opened the door for their opponents to capitalize on their mistakes.

volleyball this weekend."

The Bears will need to use the knowledge gained from the past if they hope to make a successful charge this weekend. Right out of the gate, they will be pitted against the hosts of the tournament, the Trinity Western Spartans.

The gravity of the situation isn't lost on the Bears. Coming into the hostile environment, the Bears will have to win the first match if they hope to qualify for the national championship match on Sunday.

"It's going to be a really energetic first match. We are going to be playing [Trinity Western] in their home gym. It's almost going to feel like a national final, even on the first day of the tournament," Danyluk explained. "All you can do now is lay everything that you've put into training on the line. Either you're going to be good enough or you're not. That's the deal right now."

"Every team at the tournament wants to see themselves as champions. We can beat the best teams in the country and last weekend we had our chance. The capacity is there, we just have to let ourselves go for it now."



MATT HIRJI

## Cautious court squad travels west on a slingshot route to Halifax

### basketballpreview

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

Grappling with their immaturity as they enter an unknown phase of the post-season, the Golden Bears basketball squad will travel to Vancouver this weekend for the Canada West Final Four tournament.

For all but one member of the team — sixth-year veteran C.G. Morrison — advancing into the second round of the playoffs is unprecedented territory for the young squad. And while a victory in their first game of the weekend against the veteran UBC Thunderbirds would automatically catapult them to a national championship appearance, Bears head coach Greg Francis remains cautious about his young team's abilities in the pressure-cooker match.

"It's all new. It's going to be tough," Francis said, acknowledging the daunting task of beating the top-ranked Thunderbirds. "We're going into UBC against a team that is so used to these playoff scenarios. They have a lot of fifth-year players. It's one of those things where I don't think our guys are ready for how difficult it's going to be mentally and physically."

Despite Francis' prudence, the Bears have a resumé that they can fall back on. After emerging victorious in the conference quarter-finals last



weekend against the talented Victoria Vikes, the Green and Gold have shown that they have the skill set to knock down even the most formidable opponents. The key for the young Bears will be to not let the magnitude of the weekend fluster their spirits.

"I don't think it's a skill issue anymore; it's a confidence issue. It's totally mental. Because we're not mentally tough, the little things bother you; referee calling can throw you off, if a player on the other team gets hot or if one of our players goes cold — all of those things can be a disaster for the team. We've been great with developing our mental preparedness on the fly, but we still have a long way to go," Francis said.



FILEPHOTOS: AARON YEO

Being away from the Main Gym for the first time since the playoffs began may help the Bears in their cause this weekend. The squad has proven that their mental fortitude grows stronger when they can eliminate the distractions that inherently come along with home games — something that may close the talent gap between the Bears and their Vancouver opponents, who have a less than a perfect track-record playing on their home turf.

"It's interesting playing on the road, because you don't have as many crowd distractions. Whereas playing at home, UBC might have some distractions [and] we are able to lock in. Because UBC has such a big group of seniors, there is going to be a lot of things to distract them. That's going to



play to our advantage. If our guys can lock into playing our game, it may equalize things."

Due to the gravity of the weekend, Francis isn't taking any chances, as he leads his team to the CanWest championship tournament for the first time in three years. With the stakes at an all-time high, Francis has demanded that his young players fall behind his shallow core of experienced athletes, whose maturity may just be the key to the Green and Gold's success against the T'Birds.

"These are the kinds of situations when [the younger players] are just going to have to tow the line," Francis said. "We have been improving all year. They aren't going to be any more ready than they are right now."



# On-ice cheap shot leaves the Golden Bears shaky

## hockeypreview

### Bears vs. Manitoba Bisons

March 4-5, both at 7:30 p.m.

March 6 if necessary, at 7 p.m.

Clare Drake Arena

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

With a post-season faceoff against the Manitoba Bisons looming, the Golden Bears hockey squad is still reeling from a sucker punch that nearly ended their captain's season.

Early in last weekend's final regular season series with the UBC Thunderbirds, T'Birds enforcer Mike Liambas attacked Bears captain Eric Hunter from behind. Liambas dropped his gloves, punched Hunter in the side of the head and drove him into the ice — a deed that left the Green and Gold veteran with a concussion and his entire team flustered.

"[Hunter] got tangled up with the UBC player a little bit and when the play went up ice, it was just an unfortunate incident where the guy dropped his gloves. Hunter was going up ice and he wasn't expecting it," said Bears head coach Eric Thurston, who was visibly angry about the incident.

Thurston was particularly concerned for the health of Hunter, one of his star skaters.

"I don't want to see anybody in hockey get injured. I have to protect my player, that's first and foremost. We've had players that have been concussed and they miss classes for three weeks. They just can't function in class. It's hard to [be in class] even at the best of times, let alone with a concussion," he said.

But while the team recovers from the brutal attack against their teammate, Thurston was adamant that the Bears must now set their eyes on the future. With Hunter recovering and likely to return to competitive action, the Green and Gold



FILEPHOTO: AMIRALI SHARIFI

must prepare for their first-round playoff series this weekend against the formidable Manitoba Bisons.

"Our focus now has to be moving into the playoffs," Thurston declared. "We have to let that really be our focus because we know how good Manitoba is. They are going to be a tough team to beat."

In order to claim victory over the veteran Bisons, the Green and Gold will have to overcome their inner demons. The Achilles heel of the Bears this season has been over-handling the puck in the neutral zone. The young Bears, who have a tendency to look for the pretty play instead of a

grittier one, have the tendency to make irrational decisions in the middle of the ice. The habit has been a curse for the Green and Gold this year, often resulting in game-deciding opportunities for their opponents to capitalize on turnovers.

"Manitoba has a really balanced attack that can be physical and they also have the skill to score. And their defence isn't scared to jump into the play either," Thurston explained. "It's going to be a real tough battle. It's going to be good, hard-nosed, playoff hockey with tight checking. Let's just hope things go in our favour."

The top-ranked Bears have a long journey ahead of them if they hope to live up to their

lofty expectations of hoisting the national championship trophy later this month. The first step to Thurston's triumph, however, will be to get his entire roster to maintain a strong nerve in the face of both on-ice adversity and off-ice distractions. As the pressure builds and the playoffs become more heated, Thurston knows that his young squad could quickly falter — something that would spell the end of their dream to claim a CIS title.

"I've talked to the team about it since the very beginning. The first half of the season is one thing, and the second half is another, but the playoffs are even harder. We know it's going to be a battle."

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MATT HIRJI

# Pandas eye a leap into nationals

Leaving Alberta for the first time in a month, Green and Gold on a roll

## basketball preview

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

Vying for an automatic berth into the national championships, the Pandas will travel to Saskatoon this weekend for the Canada West Final Four tournament.

The weekend away will be the first road trip for the Pandas in more than a month — time that has allowed the Green and Gold to recover from a rash of injuries sustained throughout the year. Whatever the results, the Pandas will still play in the regional finals in a couple weeks, but winning both of their games this weekend will provide the team with an opportunity to bypass a week's worth of competition and to prepare for nationals. And with a rejuvenated roster, Pandas head coach Scott Edwards is confident his team can reach their goals against some stiff competition at this weekend's playoff tournament.

"We've been a good road team all year, so we're excited about the opportunity to travel again," Edwards said. "The team seems to bond really well and become more focused on their goals when they're on the road. Our kids are well aware of what their goals are right now and what we're playing for."

The Pandas first game of the tournament will be against the Regina Cougars. Led by 2010 Canada West all-

star Joanna Zalesiak, the Cougars will pose a formidable challenge to the Pandas. Averaging an outstanding 16.3 points per game this season, Zalesiak has the unique ability to break down her opponents defence with both her outside shooting and slashing drives to the rim.

But Edwards remains optimistic about his squad's chances against the third-year import from Poland. Combining a strong core of forwards with plenty of players coming off the bench, the Alberta squad seems to have the right potion of players to contain Zalesiak and her fellow Cougars.

"The team seems to bond really well and become more focused on their goals when they're on the road. Our kids are well aware of their goals right now and what we're playing for."

"They are physically tough team and they have [Zalesiak] and a bunch of great roll players, but we're all really excited about it. We like our matchup with them," Edwards explained. "[Zalesiak's] a great player that we're going to have a tough time with this weekend. Since she came into the league a couple years ago, we have never done a really great job containing her. We've got to play well, but we like our chances this weekend, at doing that."

For the Pandas to be successful this

weekend they will have to display the commitment to teamwork that has become their trademark. With captain Marissa Haylett leading the charge, the Green and Gold have developed a dynamic roster that frees space on the court for Haylett to shine with her offensive prowess. Over the last two games, Haylett is averaging more than 50 per cent shooting — something that Edwards asserts is largely the result of the effort of the Pandas supporting cast.

"[Haylett] is certainly playing with a determination to win down the stretch and we are going to need that

going forward. But we're a successful team because we have a lot of kids that can chip in. [Haylett's] got to stay focused on that and just do what she does," Edwards said, applauding both Haylett and his other athletes for their teamwork as of late.

"I feel like we're poised to do something really great this year. The team is clicking really well right now. Hopefully they can ride that momentum for as long as they can."

SCOTT EDWARDS  
HEAD COACH, PANDAS BASKETBALL

**"The doctors x-rayed my head and found nothing." - DIZZY DEAN**

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AARON YEO

# Skip falls back on firm foundation as Bears slide forward

## curlingpreview

JUSTIN BELL  
Managing Editor

When men's curling skip Brendan Bottcher steps out on the ice at the CIS national competition next month, he's going to be doing it with a team he knows can win it all.

Bottcher is the skip of this year's incarnation of the Golden Bears curling team, a squad that came to the university intact after winning last year's Alberta Junior Men's Championship. All four members are now at the University of Alberta, wearing the Green and Gold and sweeping their way through CIS competition.

"We went into a couple spiels [in 2009] and figured out what lineup would work best. All four of us get along really well. Brad, my third, and I have been curling [together] for five or six years now,"

Bottcher said, adding that he also has a familiarity with his sweepers, whom he's been playing against in the Edmonton junior leagues for years.

That team's chemistry led them to the provincial championship in 2010, although they had a less than successful run at junior nationals last year, finishing at 6-6.

Starting in September, the cohort made the move to wearing the Golden Bears insignia and competing for the varsity curling team. Without the chance to compete against other CIS opponents during the early stages of the season, Bottcher and his teammates have also been competing in Edmonton's Super League. Their weekly opponents are the best in town, including one team skipped by Olympic gold medalist Kevin Martin.

"It was actually pretty seamless to play for both," Bottcher said. "We were having U of A practices since the beginning of September. It wasn't a big deal for all of us to come to the university."

Bottcher's team finished second in the men's super league this season, playing in the final on Wednesday. But they went into the CIS regional qualifier competition blind last weekend, having never played against other university competitors.

The Bears dropped an early tournament match to the Manitoba Bisons before rebounding to finish with a solid 4-1 tournament record, putting the team in second place at the qualifier. The performance was good enough to stamp their ticket to the CIS nationals later this month, but the squad made mental errors in their game against the Herd.

"Manitoba is a really strong team," said Bears curling head coach Rob Krepps. "I think if we played against them 10 times, we'd probably win five and lose five. With that said, that game turned on, really, one bad break. The 9-3 score wasn't indicative of the level of play up to that point."

Their record was only overshadowed by the

women's team. The Pandas swept their division at the same qualifiers, finishing the weekend with an impressive 3-0 record and securing a berth in nationals alongside the men next weekend.

"They were really well prepared," Krepps said. "Though they're young and not particularly experienced, they felt good coming into the competition."

The women didn't fare as well as the men in their regular season, finishing in the middle of the super league pack, but after a solid performance at the qualifiers, they may have just set themselves up for a run at national glory in the CIS.

"I really felt like, based on the way competitions went, both our teams deserved to make it to nationals," Krepps said. "We're really excited about that, looking forward to giving it our best shot on both the men's and women's side and hopefully we'll come home with a couple of national championships."

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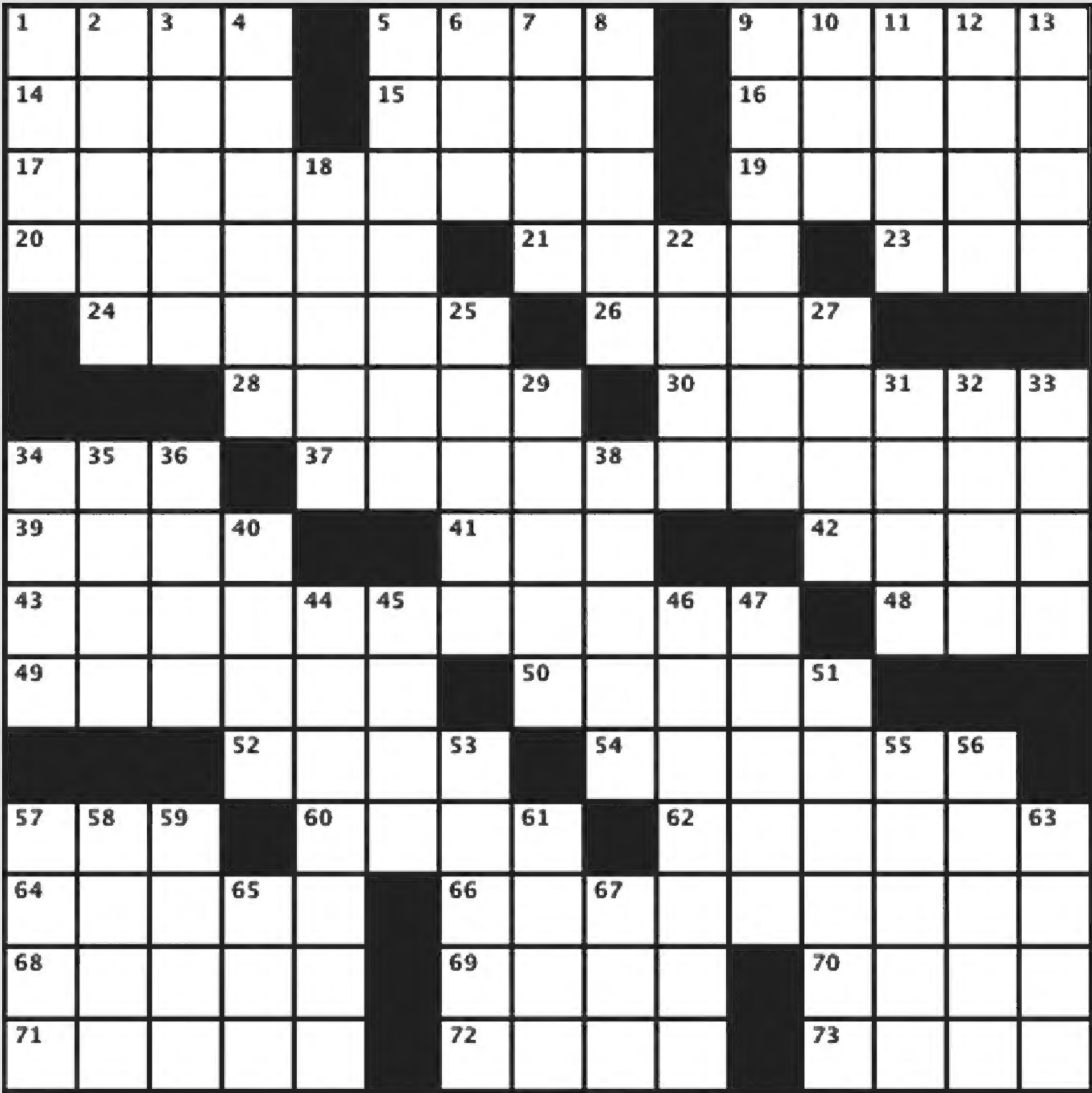
- 1. CPR experts
- 5. Distasteful
- 9. Component of organic fertilizer
- 14. Bender
- 15. Native Canadian
- 16. Like lungs
- 17. Large hairy spider
- 19. Juvenescent
- 20. Dinner course
- 21. General \_\_\_\_ chicken
- 23. Ref's decision
- 24. Cuts off
- 26. Chuck
- 28. Prepares for publication
- 30. Cytokinin occurring in corn
- 34. Hot time in Paris
- 37. Type of massage therapy
- 39. Large mop
- 41. Slangy denial
- 42. Reason to cancel school
- 43. Living on land
- 48. Nav. officer
- 49. Of special elegance

- 50. Early computer
- 52. Melt
- 54. Elaborately adorned
- 57. Bingo!
- 60. 1975 Wimbledon winner
- 62. Ogle
- 64. A jewel
- 66. Inordinate
- 68. Gross
- 69. Edges
- 70. Gorillas, chimpanzees, and orangutans
- 71. Swagger
- 72. School orgs.
- 73. Breather

Down

- 1. Kitchen addition
- 2. Haunted house sounds
- 3. Rich cake
- 4. Go hungry
- 5. Jaundiced
- 6. French vineyard
- 7. Salmon that has spawned
- 8. Brewer's need
- 9. Hero of the Odyssey
- 10. Aussie hopper
- 11. Adjoin
- 12. Liquid container
- 13. As a result

- 18. \_\_\_\_ lift?
- 22. Exude
- 25. Slow growth
- 27. Back talk
- 29. Surplus
- 31. Air
- 32. Golf club which can be numbered 1 to 9
- 33. Information
- 34. Cornerstone abbr.
- 35. Affectedly dainty
- 36. British nobleman
- 38. Thick-skinned charger
- 40. Very dry champagne
- 44. Fatigue greatly
- 45. Mariners can sail on seven of these
- 46. Lacking oxygen
- 47. Back streets
- 51. Roman general
- 53. Young of the dog
- 55. Rubbish
- 56. Roof overhangs
- 57. Basics
- 58. "Java" trumpeter
- 59. Cracked
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- 65. Columbus sch.
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